

what a sorrowful procession it was, as one after another was carried in. The scene was one never to be blotted out from the memory of all who witnessed it.

"The policemen, with their kindly sympathetic faces, moving the injured with the greatest tenderness and care; the rapid medical examination to ascertain the extent of injury, and prompt treatment, and the sad and pitiable condition of the patients.

"Very noticeable was the fact that, with scarcely an exception, they were all mute; so great had been the shock they appeared unable to speak or think. The more critical cases were first dealt with and removed to the wards, but as several were so collapsed, no examination was able to be made until they had somewhat recovered.

"It was surprising how soon all were in bed getting warmed, and their pains in most cases relieved by sedatives. Sixteen patients were admitted to different wards, and others were able to go to their homes or to the care of friends. A dear little baby, tenderly wrapped in a gentleman's overcoat, was among the latter. It had a wonderful escape, being covered with bruises. One girl was burnt, in addition to other injuries, and died soon after admission, and both her father and mother remain in a serious condition. A man who had sustained a compound fracture was operated upon immediately.

"Soon the relatives and friends were anxiously seeking and inquiring, and the press men soliciting all information possible. None of the day nurses helping seemed to want to go to bed, each being eager to have a share in the relief of the sufferers. Since early on Wednesday morning there have been countless inquiries by wire and telephone and numerous callers, and, as most of the patients are doing very well, one is very glad indeed to think the anxious ones gain such comfort in the replies."

No doubt the result of the Insurance tax will be the raising of probationers' salaries. They now have only a pocket-money wage in cash, as training, board, lodging, uniform, and washing is regarded as remuneration for unskilled work. The North Brierly Board of Guardians have already raised the salaries of their probationers from £10 to £11 annually. No doubt other Boards will follow, and thus counteract the intention of the Act that it should maintain the contributory principle and inculcate thrift. But where a living wage is not paid there is nothing to be done but to raise wages. "Thirteen shillings a year means

my pair of winter boots, or my warm winter underclothes, or something else as indispensable," a probationer said to us lately. It is not realised by many well-to-do people that there are probationers who have not a penny but what they earn!

Mrs. Paston Brown, the Chairman of the Kingston-on-Thames Guardians, had the pleasure of presenting to her colleagues an extract from the report of Miss Todd, one of the Local Government Board lady inspectors, in which she said, after making a detailed inspection of the infirmary, that she found the administration excellent, and the Sisters and Nurses a superior body of women. Mrs. Paston Brown said it was most gratifying to have such high testimony to the efficiency of the infirmary, remarks which were evidently approved by the members present.

A question which has agitated the Camberwell Guardians' minds and tempers for more than six months has now reached an ultimatum upon their part to the head nurses at the Camberwell Workhouse. The nurses have been ordered to carry a patrol watchman's "tell tale" clock on their night rounds. This they very rightly consider beneath the dignity of professional women, and on this ground they have refused to obey the instruction.

At a recent meeting some of the Guardians realised they had made themselves ridiculous, but instead of acting upon the suggestion that a false step had been made, and wisely retracing it, a resolution was carried that, failing obedience to the Board's requirements, the nurses should be asked to resign. This, no doubt, they will do.

If only there was a Matron in Chief at the Local Government Board, Boards of Guardians might be wise enough to seek expert advice where nursing etiquette and ethics were concerned, and thus many tactless suggestions might be nipped in the bud. Anyway, we are entirely in sympathy with the nurses in their objection to pedometers on duty. Without confidence in their sense of duty, the Guardians will find that no amount of sneaky dodges will result in honest service upon the part of their officials.

Invited to give her reasons for resignation by the Falmouth Guardians, Nurse Blower remarked that there were a great many senile cases in the infirmary, and that meant working 15 or 16 hours a day. To have to nurse the poor old women, who must not be left alone, called for great attention, especially in the case

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