

sick entails, we feel sure that economy of labour is secured by those Committees who thus consider their Nurses. We hope soon to hear that the Committee of some other London Hospitals will insist upon extension of rest and recreation for their Nursing staff, as their rules compare most unfavourably with those now in force at St. Bartholomew's.

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WE have received the Syllabus of Lectures delivered to the Nurses by the Medical staff of the Victoria Hospital for Children, which we find most complete and instructive.

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A "Mental Nurse" writes to a contemporary:—

"The Eastbourne (Dr. Sherrard's) case proves, if further proof were needed, how highly necessary is Dr. Batty Tuke's plan for establishing a Hospital for the physical treatment of patients in the earlier or "borderland" stages of hysterical and other nervous diseases, which from being neglected at this juncture crowd our asylums with chronic cases. I would suggest that cases of doubtful insanity might, upon the proper representation of two independent specialists, be received into a private medical and surgical home, kept by properly trained persons, and then treated from a purely physical point for a period not exceeding three months, at the end of which time, if the patient has not recovered or sensibly improved, steps could be taken to certify him. Notice of reception into the home could be given to the Commissioners, and the evils of "incarcerating sane persons in unauthorised madhouses" avoided. There are immense numbers of persons—particularly women—whose minds, at one time or other of their lives, have trembled in the balance. At such time the question of their sanity or insanity depends upon the steps taken by relatives. Few are unconscious of their surroundings, and to find oneself in the society of lunatics, treated as one of themselves, is hardly a condition calculated to cure a nervous patient."

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LORD RAYLEIGH, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, presided at a meeting held at Chelmsford to initiate a scheme for the Nursing of the Sick Poor in their own homes. The scheme, which had been formulated by Dr. J. C. THRESH, the county medical officer, and Miss LUCY CHANCELLOR, proposes to establish, in connection with the Chelmsford and Essex Infirmary, a school for instruction in practical nursing and domestic hygiene. Women will be trained at the Infirmary in batches of three at a time, the period of training lasting three or six months, and they will then be sent out to parishes in all parts of the county. It is expected that they will be very useful in nursing in the homes of the industrious labouring classes, where they will not be above taking part in the management of the house and looking after the children. The scheme will, it is estimated, cost from £150 to £200 per annum, of which the County Technical Instruction Committee will provide half. The scheme was warmly supported by Lord Rayleigh, the Bishop of Colchester, the Archdeacon of Essex, Mr. T. Osborne, M.P., and others.

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It is necessary to say a few words concerning the Newton Abbott Workhouse scandal, which has

been ringing through the Press during the past week, and which has been exposed upon the affidavit of Nurse ALICE HINTON, for ten years a member of the Workhouse Nursing Association, and brought forward by Dr. LEE. The report is too long to quote, but from it we learn that "this is the filthiest and worst managed Union she ever saw."

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This Nurse, who has resigned in disgust, swears to the most revolting acts of indecency and barbarity, as having come under her own observation. She declares that the inmates are sent to their domiciles unwashed, and with their own filthy clothes, which are never changed for a week after their arrival, and that they cannot subsequently be cleansed save at their own expense, either of food or money.

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She declares that the place is infested with vermin, which the inmates actually picked off their bread at meal times; that no superintendence whatever is exercised over the "idiots," who are constantly fighting with one another, are covered with bruises, and that on Sunday morning the place is like a mad-house. Until she lodged a complaint, six weeks ago, it was the custom to keep the doors of communication between the male and female portions of the establishment open both day and night, and the consequent immorality has been already suggested.

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But perhaps the most horrible revelation is connected with the treatment of the aged and infirm. We read:—"Many of the old infirm people at night, by order of the Matron, are stripped naked and put into a kind of sack called a 'jumper.' These 'jumpers' had six or more strings by which the woman was tied down to the bed all night, so that she could not move. She (the Nurse) had seen black marks around the throats of old women, caused by their struggles. Three inmates (named) complained that a ward woman (name given) beat Sarah Bovey, who was paralysed, stripped her naked, and put her into a jumper every night for a week. (Here follows an account of an outrage too revolting to reproduce.) The poor creature died the same night. The matron said she had the "jumpers" made to save the washing, but though complained to she never scolded or punished the ward woman for her conduct."

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These are fair samples of the charges which have *at last* induced the Board of Guardians to adopt a resolution that the matter should be laid before the Local Government Board asking for an official inquiry. We only hope that the official who proves to have been responsible for "this abomination of desolation" may be treated with the severest rigour of the law.

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