

hood. She was very nice, with a gentle soft voice, which we had heard giving directions as to our blankets, &c., the night before. She made breakfast for us, and we resumed our walk.'"

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Our correspondent adds that no doubt the "farmer's daughter," when she reads this particular number of the RECORD will be pleased to know how much her kind hospitality was appreciated.

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THE question of the training of Nurses in the Fever Hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums' Board, is to be again discussed, and we are entirely in sympathy with the views of Miss Baker and Mrs. Lawrie, who contend, and rightly, that no Nurse can be *thoroughly* trained in a special Hospital, invaluable as the knowledge they acquire in these Hospitals undoubtedly is. It is to be hoped that the happy solution to the difficulty will be found in a system of co-operative training in connection with our larger general Hospitals and Infirmarys.

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MISS BREW, the universally respected Lady Superintendent of the London Homœopathic Hospital, has lately completed her twenty years' service, and having always refused to receive testimonials from her Nursing Staff, the Medical Staff, Sisters, and Nurses gave a "surprise tea," to celebrate the occasion and wish her "many happy returns of the day." The children's ward was exquisitely decorated for the occasion with tulips, hyacinths and lilies of the valley, and the scene was altogether delightful. In no institution reigns a more harmonious tone amongst the Nursing Staff, and one is struck anew upon every visit to the Homœopathic with the strong element of human kindness (not inevitably a virtue of the modern Institution) which prevails in the wards; in no hospital do the cots and children look more bright; and the cages of lovely twittering African birds, so beautifully kept and cared for, give the key-note to the humanising influence which produces such a happy result.

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FROM the Annual Report for 1894 of the Kidderminster Infirmary we are glad to learn that the institution is in a sound financial condition, the receipts for the year having exceeded the expenditure. It is stated that:—

"Great attention has of late years been paid to the subject of Nursing, and its importance is now fully understood and appreciated. The system of admitting, as Probationers, ladies desirous of being trained as Nurses, has been most successful, not only in being less costly, but also by affording greater attention and comfort to the patients. Miss Barling has spared neither time nor trouble; and the number of

applications by young ladies, desirous of becoming Probationers, shows how highly her training is appreciated. These applications exceed the number the Institution requires, or can accommodate; and it is with pleasure that the Committee recognise Miss Barling's excellent management, not only in this, but in every other department under her charge."

* * *

MISS Barling, who is a Registered Nurse and member of the Matrons' Council, has, with the help of the Staff and Governors, inaugurated the three years' system of training, a very complete curriculum of both theoretical and practical teaching being in force. It must be a matter of great encouragement to the Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association that so many of its Matron members are accomplishing with conscientious devotion to duty such splendid work for the benefit of the sick and their fellow Nurses.

* * *

THE following valuable and important remarks made in Miss Gibson's paper—extracts from which we quoted last week—will meet with general approval in the Nursing world:—

* * *

"The difficulties of providing adequate Nursing for the sick in workhouses are very real, and the remedies difficult to find. For instance, it seems absolutely necessary that a night Nurse in an infirmary in which there is no medical officer should be a high-minded, fully qualified woman, but the salary offered is usually quite inadequate to tempt such women as are really desirable to apply; so that such positions, which undoubtedly require the very best mental and moral professional qualifications, are simply filled by those who have failed to get anything else to do. Then the small number of Nurses in proportion to patients is apt to lower the Nurse's standard of work. She has to do her work in a superficial manner altogether, or she has to leave some of it undone. If she is not very experienced, this deterioration is more apt to occur and to increase. Where there is constant trained supervision, and a number of other Nurses are employed, this is not likely to happen. Nothing is more wholesome as a stimulus to good nursing than the criticisms of our fellow Nurses, or the dislike of censure from those in authority, provided they understand and sympathize with the work.

* * *

She should have the power of applying directly to the committee, and not be dependent for her communications with them, on the master.

* * *

But the remedy—the only drastic and complete remedy to my mind—must be in trained women inspectors, who are appointed to look into the Nursing of the sick, especially into the arrangements for the women and children.

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