

## St. John's House,

FOR THE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES.

WE gather the following interesting information from the Report for 1895, in which the Council are glad to be able to show a satisfactory record for the past year.

In the Report for 1894 the Council expressed the hope that they might soon be enabled to begin to invest on behalf of the Nurses' Pension Fund. It is satisfactory, therefore, to state that during the past year the funds at their disposal have admitted of the purchase of £300 Consols, at a cost of £319 18s. 6d., on account of the Nurses' Pension Fund.

A kind friend and supporter of St. John's House, Canon Ainslie, died in December. He had been for many years a Member of the Committee, and a very regular attendant at its meetings. Though for the last years of his life illness prevented his taking any active share in the work, his interest in it has been unabated, and he has left a legacy of £200 to St. John's House, which will be received in the course of 1896, and which the Council propose to add to the Pension Fund. The Nursing Staff feel glad that they were allowed to send one of their number, Nurse Giblin, to minister to such a valued friend throughout his last long illness.

During 1895 good work has been done by the Nurses, who have been well occupied throughout the year; some 580 cases of private Nursing having been undertaken. The grateful reports, which almost invariably are sent back with the Nurses, are very satisfactory evidence of the value of their work among rich and poor.

During the year nine Nurses have left the Staff. Three have taken up District work, three are working on their own account, one has died, one has taken the Matronship of the Cottage Hospital at Bishop's Stortford (which has been built by members of the late Mr. Bartle Frere's family), and one at the very end of the year, Nurse Giblin, the senior Nurse, retired to go on pension. The number of Nurses remains the same, as nine Nurses who have completed their training have joined the Private Staff.

Nurses have been sent at reduced fees to forty-nine patients during the past year. Only eleven free cases have been undertaken, as comparatively little free work can be done without the help of more liberal donations and subscriptions to enable the funds of the House to bear the expense.

Several Nurses have been laid aside for a time by illness. Four very able Nurses on the Private Staff contracted typhoid fever whilst nursing their patients, and were invalided for several weeks.

Three Nurses on pension have died. Nurse Wybrow, who came in 1868 and retired in 1875, died last May, having received pension for twenty years. Nurse

Silver, who came in 1862, and had received pension for over ten years, died in April. In the same month Nurse Brown, a much younger Nurse, who had only been for twelve years on the Staff, also died. She had begun to receive pension just a fortnight before her death. She is a real loss to the Nursing Staff, as, till her illness, Phthisis Laryngea, obliged her to retire, it was hoped that she had many years of active useful life before her. Nurse Giblin retires now on full pension after over thirty-two years of very varied experience and faithful service on the Staff. Ten years of it she passed working in Galignani's Hospital at Paris, when that Hospital was under the care of St. John's House.

A little work has been done during 1895 in supplying invalid diets and nourishing food to poor women in the neighbourhood of St. John's House during their time of lying-in.

There is not much to record of the Nursing at the Metropolitan Hospital, as the work has gone on there very much as in previous years. The Nurses, as before, appear to have given all satisfaction to the Committee and Medical Staff. The number of cases admitted to the Hospital in 1895 was 970, of which 455 were medical, and 515 surgical cases.

However, on December 25th, a notice was received from the Committee of the Metropolitan Hospital to the effect that, after mature consideration, they had decided that the time had arrived when the Hospital should have its own Nursing Staff, and, in accordance with that resolution, they gave formal notice to St. John's House to terminate the existing agreement. The Committee of the Hospital further expressed their most sincere thanks for the way in which the Nursing arrangements have been conducted since 1887. As this change will not come into force till the spring of 1896, it is impossible for the Council yet to state what arrangements will be made for the future training of the St. John's Nurses.

During the time of the epidemic of small-pox in the autumn, the Metropolitan Asylums Board applied to St. John's House for a large number of Nurses. Five only were able to go, as it was a time of active service for the Nursing Staff. Of these, one was employed on the Hospital Ships, the others at the large Convalescent Hospital at Gore Farm.

Nurse Stockwell, who was allowed by the Council to volunteer her services for a year's work, during a time of special difficulty, at the Hospital at Zanzibar, has returned to England. Before leaving Africa she had a severe attack of fever. The Council have been glad to welcome her back, and she is now well enough to resume her work on the Private Staff.

The near approach of the jubilee of St. John's House suggests a thought as to whether anything can be done to mark this epoch in its history, and the fifty years of its eventful, chequered life, through which St. John's Nurses, often at the cost of hardship, and self-denial to themselves, have been enabled to continue to bring comfort and relief to sick and suffering. The Chapel, which should be the centre of the Nurse's home and life, has been completed externally. Much still remains to be done to beautify it. If a memorial of their jubilee could accomplish this, it would be a way of marking the year which would be much appreciated by all who belong to St. John's House.

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