

experience. Indeed, if the Matrons' Council were invited by St. John's House to discuss the subject we have been considering to-night, I believe it would respond to the invitation, and probably suggestions of much practical value would result.

I began my paper this evening by saying that I thought it a happy thing that the first subject discussed in the New Year should be the one which has been selected. I think it is a happy thing also that St. John's House, which was one of the first Private Nursing Institutions, and which can count upon its staff nurses who are second to none, should also be the first to point out the need of a fresh departure, and that its nurses should meet to discuss how this need may be met.

A short discussion followed the paper, in which Nurse Miles, Nurse Provis, Nurse Honor, Nurse Groves, and Nurse Georgina Walker took part. A unanimous opinion prevailed that it would be of much benefit to private nurses to return to Hospital from time to time, but it was felt that there would probably be difficulties in the way of their being employed by first-class Training Schools.

The papers read at the meetings of the St. John's House Debating Society are afterwards circulated amongst the members who are not able to be present, and the fact that of the twelve papers which were read before it last year, eleven are still in circulation, is proof of the keen interest taken by the members in their Society.

The Matrons' Council have now under consideration the subject treated in the above paper.

Nursing Echoes.

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A LARGELY attended meeting was held in Dublin on Monday, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Ion Trant Hamilton, for the purpose of commemorating the 60th year of the Queen's reign by raising a fund, to be administered in Ireland, in connection with Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. The Chairman stated that, after consultation with friends, he had arrived at the conclusion that the charity which he had named was the best

that could be selected for the purpose, because it was thoroughly unsectarian and unpolitical, and carried relief to the furthest wilds of the country, and because it was pleasing to the Queen herself, who had initiated it.

THE Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association will hold a fancy dress ball at the Crystal Palace, in commemoration of the Queen's diamond jubilee, on April 28th, in aid of the Nursing division of the Association. The ball will be under the immediate patronage of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Christian, and the Princess Louise.

WHENEVER we have occasion in our editorial capacity to criticise the management of the Macclesfield Infirmary, and we regret that we have had quite lately to draw attention to its obsolete regulations—an outburst of indignation on the part of the Macclesfield press is the inevitable result. Accusations of "malevolence," "ignorance," "gratuitous impertinence," "malicious garbling," "indulgence in cheap sentimentality," "gross distortion," and last, but not least, "worthless disregard of the ordinary amenities of criticism," are a few of the "amenities of criticism" with which our expression of opinion has this time been greeted. A further accusation that some mysterious and malignant person is sheltered behind our editorial "we," compels us to suspect that there is a personal element in the protestations of the Macclesfield press. We have before us the rules of the Macclesfield General Infirmary, and we repeat what we stated in a late issue, that until some of these rules are overhauled and rescinded, neither discipline nor efficiency in the Nursing department can be maintained.

The first regulation to which we take the strongest exception is that stated in "No. 44" of the rules for the Senior House Surgeon. It reads thus: "The Senior House Surgeon shall be the responsible head of the Institution. He shall take care that the nurses discharge their duties in the separate wards; and any neglect of duty or act of disobedience shall be reported by him to the House Committee at their next meeting, to which he shall report weekly the general state of the Institution."

Now, we maintain that for the most efficient working of any public hospital, the three departments, secretarial, medical, and nursing, should each be presided over by a responsible official, whose duty it should be to report personally, in writing, to the lay governing body, at its weekly meetings. Each department should, and can be, clearly defined, and any overlapping or interference upon the part of the official head

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