

The Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation.

BEING anxious to hear the views of a male nurse upon the subject of male nursing, a representative of the NURSING RECORD called upon Mr. Walshe, of the Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation, 10, Thayer Street, W. Mr. Walshe has himself been a nurse for twenty years, and is fully persuaded that there is a demand for men as nurses, a belief which receives support from the fact that there are in the co-operation which he superintends, one hundred and twenty men who are kept fully employed; indeed Mr. Walshe is of opinion that the demands for nurses which the co-operation is unable to meet, would keep forty more men employed if the right sort were obtainable. One of the difficulties in the way of raising the standard of male nursing is, in Mr. Walshe's opinion, the fact that no London training school admits male probationers. A few country hospitals do so, but at present no general hospital in London. Mr. Walshe holds decidedly that the men during their training should be unmarried, first of all for the reason that very few of them have private means, and the salary which they would receive as probationers would not allow them to support a wife, and Mr. Walshe does not consider that a woman should have to support herself after she is married. Mr. Walshe has visited most of the other countries in Europe and asserts that England is the only one in which the general hospitals are not open to men for training. He would like the wards always to be under the superintendence of ward sisters, on account of the element of refinement only obtainable under these conditions, but thinks that there is no reason why male and female probationers should not work side by side, and that in many cases it is much more suitable that a man, rather than a woman, should render the necessary assistance. He emphatically disbelieves that nursing is an unmanly occupation, and says that the nurses of his co-operation are as manly a set of men as could be met with anywhere.

It would be interesting to hear the experience of the training schools abroad which admit male nurses, both as to the capacity of the men for training, the opinion of the patients upon the subject, and what demand there is for the services of the men when trained. Mr. Walshe is of opinion that in organization the English hospitals are ahead of the foreign ones, but in many other respects we might with advantage take lessons from our neighbours.

The nurses of the Temperance Co-operation vary in social standing from the sons of professional men downwards. Practically it is found that the men who have been gentlemen's servants make, on the whole, the best nurses. Those of a higher social grade, though very suitable

for some cases, do not manage violent cases so well, and invitations to dinner, and boxes at the theatre, are somewhat apt to interfere with their professional duties.

The Temperance Co-operation have a benefit society managed by their own members, into which they pay 2s. a month. This entitles sick members to receive £2 a week during an illness caused by accident while on duty, and £1 per week for the following thirteen weeks. The men, Mr. Walshe asserts, are very loyal to each other. When the same can be said of nurses of the opposite sex we shall see the efficient organization of the profession accomplished.

Appointments.

THE usual excitement exists amongst the nursing staff at St. George's Hospital at the advent of "the new Matron," Miss Smedley having now commenced her onerous duties at that institution.

MISS GERTRUDE PAYNE has succeeded Miss Smedley at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, in the position of Acting Matron for six months. Miss Payne has held the position of Assistant Matron for some years, and is, therefore, conversant with the requirements of the hospital. She was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

MISS KATE ELEANOR RICHMOND has been appointed Matron of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women. Miss Richmond was trained and certificated at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and has also held the position of Charge Nurse at Hartlepool Hospital, Sister at the Paddington Infirmary, and Superintendent of Nurses at Chertsey Infirmary. For the last four years Miss Richmond has been Assistant Matron at the Midland Counties Home for Chronic and Incurable Diseases at Leamington, which post she vacates to the unanimous regret of her colleagues.

MISS EMILY MARGARET FOX has been appointed "Sister, Surgery" at Guy's Hospital; after having been trained and certificated at that hospital, she was one of the nurses selected for service in Greece during the late war. Miss Fox did good service in the Military Hospital, and Ecole Militaire, in Athens.

By a printer's error last week, we regret that in announcing the forthcoming marriage of the Matron of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital at Birmingham, the name of that city was omitted, so that it has been assumed we alluded to the Metropolitan institution of that name. The Matronship of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital in London is therefore *not* vacant.

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