

serious condition of the patient was not fully realized, but nurses would, we think, do well to take the lesson to heart. There is undoubtedly a tendency on the part of many hospital nurses to ignore the claims of the relations of those under their care. Nurses cannot keep too prominently before their minds the fact of their obligations to absent relatives, or realize too keenly that their services, skilled and invaluable as they are, do not compensate their patients for the absence, at their deathbeds, of those to whom they are bound by the closest ties of relationship, as well as often of affection; and we would urge upon all nurses in responsible positions the duty of affording every facility of access to the wards, to the friends of those who are seriously ill.

*St. George's Hospital Gazette* remarks:—

"One or two slight changes have recently occurred in the Hospital. The room which has lately been sacred to the Medical Officers has been thrown into the Matron's suite of apartments, and the Hospital records, etc., moved to a room on the right of the Board Room. Mr. Marshall has, consequently, had to go back to his old quarters in the Committee Room."

"The Matron, we are glad to notice, has already in an unostentatious way instituted several useful reforms amongst the nurses. One of these—namely, the prohibition against wearing flowers—has hurt the feelings of certain amorous swains."

"It has been proposed that we should publish, from time to time, the names and addresses of those nurses who, on leaving the Hospital, intend to undertake private nursing. By doing this we hope to benefit two classes of our readers—on the one hand the nurses themselves, for by this means the fact that they are ready to undertake private cases will, perhaps, gain greater publicity than might otherwise be the case; and men in practice on the other, who will thus be easily able to put themselves in communication with a nurse who has had the advantage of being trained at their own hospital."

"We shall, therefore, be glad to receive particulars from any nurses about to engage in private work who would like us to publish the same in *THE GAZETTE*."

THIS last is a thoughtful offer on the part of the "George's" Students' Journal, and no doubt will be responded to by many St. George's Nurses doing private nursing in London. We are glad to observe that most of the London Hospital Gazettes touch on the nursing matters in connection with their own school.

A DISTRESSING inquest took place on Tuesday at the Camberwell Coroner's Court on the body of Elizabeth Theobald, a patient in the Camberwell Infirmary. She was found by a ward assistant at half-past seven o'clock on Wednesday morning lying apparently dead in an asphalt yard some little distance from the stairs at the back of the

female ward. At the post-mortem examination of the body it was found that the base of the skull was fractured in two places, and there was also a fracture of the left thigh. She presumably fell from the bath room window, a height of eighty feet. The question of interest, however, for the public and the Camberwell Guardians is, who was in charge of the patients in the ward from which this poor woman escaped, and can the nursing of any ward be considered efficient from which a patient can escape and hurl herself to destruction, and whose very absence and death remain unnoticed until found in an open yard by a passing scrubber? We have lately advised the Camberwell Guardians to reorganize their nursing department, under the supervision of a thoroughly trained matron, and we hope that both the ratepayers and the local press will support our suggestion.

WE are glad to observe that the lady visitors at the Union Infirmary at Bridgwater are at last taking a determined stand about the condition of the patients in that institution, and that they have presented a report to the guardians. The thoroughly inefficient nursing of the sick, especially of poor infants, has long been an open secret, and it is high time the whole organization of the nursing department was overhauled and reformed. The nursing should be taken entirely out of the hands of the present untrained matron, and a trained superintendent nurse should be placed on permanent day duty, responsible to the medical officer. Until this is done, further scandals, such as have lately been reported in the press, will constantly recur.

THE Clerk to the Guardians at Bath recently reported that he had advertised for a nurse at £14 per annum, and had received no application. We should be surprised if the salary offered had attracted any nurses whose services would have been of value to the Guardians. It has now been decided to raise the amount to £16 per annum. To advertise for a nurse at such a salary is merely wasting the ratepayers' money.

THE tragic death of Miss Edith Ellen Ashcroft, a member of the nursing staff at the Mile Road Infirmary, Liverpool, has cast a gloom over the Christmas rejoicings in that institution. On Thursday evening of last week she was taking part in the rehearsal of an entertainment which was to be given on Boxing Day, when her costume of white art muslin caught fire owing to her going too near the footlights. Her fellow nurses extinguished the flames in a few seconds, but Miss Ashcroft was so severely injured that she died from shock.

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