

Commissioners in Lunacy. It is brought out in this report, and indeed mentioned as an ordinary event requiring no comment, that attendants on insane patients having suicidal tendencies, are in the habit of sleeping at night in their patients' rooms, with the door locked on the inside. A more dangerous practice for patients and nurses alike cannot well be conceived.

With regard to the nursing in asylums, it is evident that the standard of efficiency varies very much in different institutions, but it would appear that in some at least the standard of education needs to be considerably raised.

There is evidently a strong feeling on the part of many asylum attendants that their hours on duty are far too long, and this is a matter which needs attention from those responsible for the arrangement of these hours. The work of attending on the insane is most anxious and onerous, and probably eight hours a day is the limit of the work which should be expected from any attendant; but at the present time 13 and 14 hours a day seems the more usual length of service.

The Asylum Workers are fortunate in having a paper, *Asylum News*, ably edited by a medical man, Dr. Shuttleworth of Richmond.

MIDWIFERY.

In the midwifery world those who desire legislation for midwives are still actively at work. But their plan of campaign seems to have changed and, in place of the registration which was formerly demanded, it would seem that those who are working for this legislation are now willing to accept the yearly licensing of midwives. This is a departure which we view with the gravest apprehension, and which we refer to in greater detail in another column of this issue.

MASSEUSES.

There is no doubt that a knowledge of massage is of great value to nurses, more especially to those engaged in private work. Owing to the abuse of the term, however, in connection with disreputable houses, trained nurses of late have, for the sake of their own personal reputation, been chary of undertaking this branch of work, or of admitting that they have any knowledge of it. Now, however, that the police are taking active measures for the suppression of these houses we hope that massage will resume an honourable place in the

estimation of the public as an agent of great therapeutic value, and that many nurses will add a knowledge of it to their qualifications.

IN GREATER BRITAIN.

In India many of the nurses engaged on plague duty have been doing excellent work. They have won the confidence and gratitude of the natives, and thereby performed a service of very real value to the Empire. From time to time, however, news comes of the indiscretions of individual nurses, and there is no doubt that the maintenance of a corps of nurses, selected when there is no special stress, and whose qualifications and suitability can be thoroughly tested, would be of great value, in times of emergency, such as the past and present necessity for nurses for plague patients; or in epidemics, or disaster at home. We should gladly welcome the formation of such a corps.

In Canada, the Victorian Order of Nurses has been established by the energy of the Countess of Aberdeen. The plan for its formation was first brought by Lady Aberdeen before the National Council of the Dominion, by which it was most cordially received. This Order is already winning its laurels. Nurses belonging to it have successfully accomplished what many strong men have failed to achieve, and having braved the dangers and hardships of the journey to Klondyke are now engaged there in nursing those who need their care.

From the Cape there is news of the establishment of a Nurses' Institute at Cape Town, as a commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and in many of our Colonies and dependencies nurses are winning the esteem and respect which their devotion to their duties has commanded.

A CHAIR OF CLINICAL NURSING.

Abroad the most important event in the nursing world is undoubtedly the appointment of Miss Hanna Kindbom, Superintendent of Nurses at the John Sealy Hospital, Galveston, to the Chair of Clinical Nursing in the University of Texas. To this University, therefore, belongs the honour of having appointed the first nursing professor, and those who had the privilege of meeting Miss Kindbom when she visited this country last year feel sure that she is eminently suited to discharge the duties of this responsible position. How long will it be before a British university follows the example set by the States?

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