

of twenty-four persons, all the details should be relegated to a committee for the purpose for both Workhouse and Infirmary. The other resolution proposed that the Infirmary matron should deal with all details for the Infirmary nurses; leaving the Workhouse nurses still in the hands of the General Committee. This last was carried. There was no confusion in the minds of the Board as to appointment, and selection from candidates; all were perfectly clear that the appointment rested with the Guardians. The sole question was whether detail could be managed by a committee of twenty-four; and if it could not, then should that detail be in the hands of a committee of six; or if the infirmary and workhouse should be treated differently, the detail of the first put into the hands of the Matron, the detail of the second remaining in the hands of the General Committee, but the whole matter only arose out of the difficulty of obtaining nurses for the Infirmary. There never having been any difficulty about the nursing staff of the workhouse, for which there were always plenty of applications."

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WE merely restate what we said on the 4th inst., that the widespread discredit of the Nursing School at the Chelsea Infirmary has resulted in women of education and refinement refusing to be associated with it, and the absolute unanimity of the present Chairman and Matron will, we imagine, make women still more diffident of placing themselves under their dual control. Under existing circumstances we strongly approve of Miss Grove's suggestion that a Nursing Committee should be appointed, and we hope in justice to the majority of the nursing staff that she will at an early date carry a resolution to this effect.

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As we go to press we regret to hear of the death of Mrs. Puddicombe, Matron of the Trained Nurses Institute at Jersey, who is alleged to have committed suicide by taking a quantity of carbolic acid on Sunday evening. Suicides in the nursing profession are becoming painfully frequent, and are no doubt due in a large measure to the high pressure at which we live at the present day, resulting in over-strain, and consequent derangement of mental balance.

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WE record with much regret the death of Nurse Evans, Superintendent Nurse of the Rochdale Union Workhouse, from an accident caused by the explosion in the surgery of a bottle of ether, the surgery subsequently being set on fire. Nurse Barker was also so badly burnt that her condition is most precarious.

The Hospital World.

THE GENERAL NURSING HOSTEL.

READERS of the NURSING RECORD will be glad to know of the General Nursing Hostel, Warrington Crescent, Maida-Hill, W., which has been opened as a private nursing home for patients who cannot afford to pay the fees usually charged at the West End. The uniform inclusive charge is three guineas per week, wine, and spirits, and dressings, being extras. The fees of the medical attendant are independent of these charges.

The Hostel is a large and roomy house, capable of accommodating 30 patients. In the largest ward are 6 beds, but in every case, where there is more than one bed in a ward, privacy is secured, if desired, by means of curtains. The Superintendent of the Home is Miss Gartley, who received her training at the Edinburgh Children's Hospital, and at the Westminster Hospital. It is proposed, when the Home is full, that the nursing staff should be twenty in number, an allowance which should admit of good nursing.

A feature in connection with this home is that it is not desired to make any profit by it; after expenses are paid, any surplus is to be set aside for the good of the Home, and it is hoped that eventually the present charge of three guineas may be reduced to two. So far, the Home, at the above rate of charges, has paid its way, and considering that it has only been open, under the present management since last April, this augurs well for its success in the future. It is hoped, in days to come, to bring it nearer to the centre of London, but the difficulty is, of course, the increased expense necessary in rent, rates, and taxes.

The wards are furnished with beds, specially made, and higher than is usually the case, so that there is no necessity for stooping over them. Bed-side tables, also high, are provided, as well as bed tables for meals. I venture upon one criticism, which is that it would be advisable to remove the carpets, which seem out of place in a Home of this kind. The patients who were in the Home seemed comfortable and happy and well cared for, and it will no doubt be a boon to many people to know of a place of this kind, where the nursing is under the supervision of a trained superintendent, for, unfortunately, even when high fees are charged, this is not invariably the case. The public now realizes the incongruity of placing an untrained head in charge of the nursing department of a hospital—when will it learn that a well qualified superintendent is an even greater necessity in a private nursing home, where the cases are frequently most critical, and where there is no resident medical officer?

M. B.

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