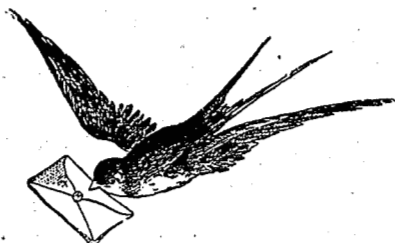


Our Foreign Letter.

PRINCE ALFRED HOSPITAL ANNUAL MEETING.

FROM AUSTRALIA.



The annual Meeting of the Governors and Subscribers of Prince Alfred Hospital was held in the dining-room of the Nurses' Home on March 5th, presided

over by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Frederick Darley, who was accompanied by Miss Darley, and supported by a large and influential gathering. A report of the work of this fine hospital proved that during the past year in every department it has been carried on with vigour and success.

REPORT OF THE NURSING DEPARTMENT.

The special report of Miss McGahey, the Lady Superintendent, will be of the greatest interest to your readers, and it stated that steady progress had been made by the pupil nurses during the year. They had been most diligent in the performance of their duties, at all times making the best of the exceptional opportunities which this hospital afforded them for acquiring a knowledge of their profession. The sisters and senior nurses continued to perform their duties in the same efficient manner which had marked their work in past years. In October the number of patients increased considerably, and owing to the pressure of work it was found necessary to add two more nurses to the staff; since then the work had gone on increasing, and at times it had been very difficult to manage it satisfactorily, even with the assistance of the extra nurses. Instruction was given to the pupils twice and occasionally three times weekly during ten months of the year in the subjects specified in the curriculum. Practical examinations were conducted in bed-making, bandaging, dressing of wounds, cleansing and sterilisation of instruments, massage, invalid cookery, sponging, preparation for aspirating, and giving hot air and vapour baths. In December 41 probationers and pupil nurses entered for the theoretical examinations. Of this number, two succeeded in gaining first-class honours; 16 second-class honours, and the remaining number passed, with the exception of five probationers and three pupil nurses, who will be re-examined in March. The number of applications from those desirous of being received for training as nurses still continued far in excess of requirements. During the year no fewer than 223 applied to have their names enrolled for vacancies on the nursing staff. In October, 1899, the new rules for nurses came into force, one of the most important changes being the extension of the period of training from three to four years. Each nurse who entered could remain for at least four years, and those among them who proved themselves good managers would have an opportunity afforded them of remaining a fifth year, to fill any vacancies which may occur in the "charge" nurse grade. According to the new curriculum, it was pro-

posed to give a post graduate course during the fourth year, which would be a great boon to the nurses undergoing training. The subjects would be midwifery, dispensing, housekeeping, and probably another, not yet selected.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Dr. Graham, M.L.A., Mayor of Sydney, in moving the following resolution, "That the cordial thanks of the meeting be given to the honorary medical officers of the hospital for their very valuable services during the past year," said the success of a great institution like this rested on three things—firstly, the capacity of the board of management; secondly, the medical staff; and thirdly, the nursing staff. It had been a matter of competition between the best medical men to secure appointments in Prince Alfred Hospital. That spoke volumes for the management of the board. The status of nurse had been raised from a rough art to a high standard, and he was glad that a huge union had been formed of all the nurses of the colony for their benefit and protection. The work of the year had been performed with a zeal and an efficiency that were not excelled anywhere.

During last year the hospital did all it could by sending of its best, both of surgeons and nurses, to South Africa to help in the battles of the Empire. Sister Fletcher was offered the management of the branch of the Yeomanry Hospital, and this was a great distinction of which she has proved herself well worthy.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

Your able journal has aroused much interest in Australia in the International Congress at Buffalo, and we feel quite safe now that Miss McGahey, who holds so many honourable professional positions, will be present at the Congress to voice Australian nursing opinion. Miss McGahey has accepted the courteous invitation of the American Committee to act as a Hon. Vice-President of the Congress, and in her multiple capacities of Hon. Secretary of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association, President of the Prince Alfred Hospital Trained Nurses' Re-Union, Hon. Vice-President for Federated Australia of the International Council of Nurses, and Hon. Member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, you will agree that she is a most representative Delegate.

"FEDERATION."

Rule of Three for Nurses.

Three things to govern—temper, tongue, and conduct.

Three things to love—courage, gentleness, and affection.

Three things to hate—cruelty, arrogance, and ingratitude.

Three things to delight in—frankness, freedom, and beauty.

Three things to wish for—health, friends, and a cheerful spirit.

Three things to avoid—idleness, loquacity, and flippant jesting.

Three things to fight for—honour, country, and home.

Three things to admire—intellectual power, dignity, and gracefulness.

Three things to think about—life, death, and eternity.

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