

Master for the superintendence of all domestic arrangements and the supervision of all female officers and their work; and then comes the Superintendent Nurse, "responsible to the Master, Medical Officer, and Matron, and through them to the Guardians, for the proper nursing of the sick, the instruction and supervision of the other nurses in the discharge of their duties, the order and cleanliness of the hospital, and the charge of all stores issued to her." And then surprise is expressed that nurses are not keen to accept workhouse appointments!

The one and only satisfactory solution of the workhouse nursing difficulty is to make it a *sine qua non* that the Matron who is charged with the duty of superintending nurses shall herself be a certificated nurse. There would then be no need for the appointment of a Superintendent Nurse, but the heads of wards would take the position of Ward Sisters, working under the trained Matron.

Mr. Thomas Snaith, a member of the York Guardians, went as a delegate to the recent Poor-law Conference in London. He does not appear to have been greatly impressed by his experience. His chief objection seems to be to the way the nurses are treated. Apparently he thinks they are treated too well. Nursing, he declared to his brother guardians, is almost made a fetish among a certain class. Too much, he added, is made of nurses, their comforts and conveniences, and too little consideration given to masters and matrons and male officers. Some of the speakers at the Conference, he complained, were carried to the extent of advocating ping-pong, lawn tennis, and other recreations for the nurses. Mr. David Young, who seemed generally to agree with Mr. Snaith, said that as for ping-pong and that sort of thing, if a mangle had been advocated it would have been far better. It would be interesting to know if either of these gentlemen has ever been ill and needed the services of a trained nurse.

The dangers of over-heating beeswax and turpentine on the fire range with a consequent flare up has resulted in several deaths, and many accidents have occurred in hospitals from the extravagant habit of wardmaids and others using these expensive items to "make the fire burn up." Tow saturated with turpentine stuffed into a range instead of paper, or worse still, lumps of expensive wax, are hospital stores which should be carefully used for polishing purposes, and not as fire-lighters. We note that an extensive fire was caused by a wardmaid in one of the kitchens at the Newport and Monmouthshire Hospital by the use of wax to light a fire. Fortunately the

girl was not burned, but we may hope that the flare up and consequent destruction will be a lesson to her not to make use of expensive hospital stores to save herself trouble. It is a subject for congratulation that the hospital hose saved the institution from destruction, and that no loss of life resulted.

The concluding lecture for the session 1901 and 1902 was delivered at the Dublin Nurses' Club, 3, Stephen's Green, on Tuesday evening, the 15th inst., by Dr. Coleman, physician to the Richmond Hospital, on the subject of "The Enteric Fever in South Africa." The lecture, which was most interesting, was largely attended, and was listened to by some who had themselves been on duty at the seat of war. At its conclusion a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer was unanimously passed. It is felt that the series of lectures now concluded have been of great benefit to the members of the club, and it is hoped that it will receive a large accession of members during the present year.

The board of management of the Adelaide Hospital, South Australia, has introduced several innovations with reference to the certificates of efficiency issued to nurses who have undergone a course of training in the institution. Previously a certificate, which was printed upon a plain piece of cardboard, merely set out in general terms that the person to whom it was issued had passed the necessary examinations, and was qualified to fill the position of a nurse. The new cards, which are tastefully bound in morocco, in book form, not only certify that the holder has served for three years in the wards of the hospital, and attended the prescribed courses of lectures, but show whether she was awarded first, second, or third honours by the examiners in the medical, surgical, gynaecological, and ophthalmological divisions respectively. It therefore shows at a glance the nurse's qualifications in each of the principal branches of medical science referred to.

The board has also decided to present a silver medal to each nurse who passes first class in each of the four subjects referred to, and one of these medals was presented to Nurse Florence Shearer, who obtained her certificate a short time ago. Mr. Tucker, M.P., in making the presentation, congratulated Miss Shearer, on behalf of the board, on the distinction which she had won, and expressed the hope that she would be able to devote many years to the work for which she had proved herself to be so well adapted. He thanked her for the skill and care which she had displayed during her connection with the hospital, and wished her even greater success in the future.

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