

which exist in the nursing profession. Women enter hospitals at ages ranging between twenty-one and twenty-five, and it is expected that in three years' training the hospital authorities should be able to eradicate faults of twenty-one years' standing, and at the same time infuse into the novice efficiency, gentleness, sympathy, and many other desirable attributes.

"It is the duty of the public to see that well brought-up nice-minded, capable women are sent to be trained, and hospital authorities will then be able to send to the public nice-minded capable women as trained nurses."

A correspondent from Tasmania last week touched on the dispute, through correspondence, between the Boards of the Hobart and Launceston Hospitals, relative to the Report on "Nursing in Tasmania," presented through Miss Milne to the International Council of Nurses at Buffalo.

In further correspondence, the Secretary of the Hobart Hospital Board wrote to the effect that his Board had resolved that Miss Milne's explanation of the disparaging comments on the southern Institution published in the NURSING RECORD "be not accepted" unless the source of her information was disclosed. The Lady Superintendent of the Hobart Hospital had denied having received any communication from Miss Milne asking for information.

On this being put before her by the Chairman of the Launceston Board, Miss Milne naturally declined to disclose the identity of her informant, and averred that this was the second time letters addressed by her to the Lady Superintendent of the Hobart Hospital had failed to elicit a reply. At a recent meeting of the Launceston Board Dr. Thomas moved—"That this Board, while regretting the disparagement of a sister institution, deems it inexpedient to assist in promoting a personal discussion thereon." This was seconded by Mr. Edgell, and, after a brief discussion, carried.

It is therefore to be hoped that the incident is closed. In our opinion the lesson to be learnt from this storm in a tea-cup is that, in Great Britain and her Colonies, Central Nursing Authorities are imperative to organise a nursing curriculum, enforce a standard of training, and register trained nurses. At present the "go as you please" attitude only results in confusion worse confounded.

Also all Matrons should carefully keep a letter copy-book, and diary of letters received, which would make such a dispute impossible.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



At the Metropolitan Asylums Board meeting, on Saturday, the returns submitted to the board showed that there were in the various hospitals for infectious diseases 2,265 cases of scarlet fever, 989 cases of diphtheria, and 123 cases of enteric fever, a total of 3,378 cases—an increase of 47 cases during the fortnight. The total two weeks ago was 3,331, but a decrease of 130 as compared with the corresponding fortnight of last year, when the total was 3,508 cases. During the fortnight there had been 925 cases admitted, 48 had died, and 830 had been discharged, recovered. For the preceding fortnight there were 839 cases admitted. The chairman said that if scarlet fever continued to increase, they would probably be short of hospital accommodation.

A Parliamentary paper just issued contains statistics relating to the refugee camps in South Africa for March. It shows that at the end of that month there were 51,498 persons in the Transvaal camps, nearly 40,000 in those of the Orange River Colony and Cape Colony, and 20,715 in those in Natal. The deaths in the Transvaal numbered 174, in the Orange River and Cape Colonies 180, and in Natal 70. A provisional return for April shows that the total number of inmates of the camps was 112,733, and that the deaths numbered 298.

The fiftieth annual general court of governors of the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, was held recently in the board-room of the hospital. The Duke of Fife, president, occupied the chair. He said the hospital began 50 years ago, and had greatly extended its operations until it could boast with truth to be not only the oldest, but the largest purely children's hospital in the British Empire. During the first year there were only 143 in-patients. Last year the in-patients numbered 2,300, and there were 25,000 new out-patients. During the first year the out-patients numbered rather over 1,200, and since then nearly three-quarters of a million of children had been cared for by the hospital. In reply to an attack by Sir Henry Burdett on points of management, Mr. Justice Kekewich said the committee were fully alive to the needs of the out-patient department, but they thought it extremely wrong to embark on an expenditure of at least £30,000 when they had not sufficient money to carry on the ordinary work of the hospital.

More handsome legacies are announced for the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, amongst them £5,000 from Miss Martha Brown, of Waterhaughs.

The 24th ult. was a red-letter day at the Clayton Hospital at Wakefield, the occasion being the formal opening of a new wing, to be known henceforth as the Shaw Nurses' Home. This addition to the already fine hospital consists of a sitting-room, dining-room, 19 bedrooms, bathroom, and other offices, and is for the use of the nursing staff. The work will cost something over £3,000, and this sum will come out of a handsome bequest of £80,000 left to the hospital by the late Mr. J. Shaw, of Wakefield.

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