

Secretary, brought out several points of interest to nurses, more especially to those engaged in private nursing. When a nurse decides to take up this branch of work there are two principal methods of work before her (or him). She may attach herself to a hospital or proprietary nursing institution, when the institution guarantees her a small but certain salary, with uniform, and board and lodging between her cases, and usually medical and nursing attendance when ill. The institution takes the risks of slack times, and the nurse has no anxiety on this score, but is willing for the above considerations that the institution should make a profit, often considerable, out of her earnings.

The other method, and one which enlists a considerable amount of sympathy, and consequently of support from liberal-minded members of the public and of the medical profession, is that private nurses should form themselves into co-operations through which they take their own fees, less the percentage requisite to defray the necessary office expenses. In this case the nurse herself takes the risk of slack times, and the office has no responsibility to her beyond putting her into communication with doctors and patients, and the collection of her fees. A nurse working in this way can, as a rule, make from £80 to £100 a year, as against the £30 to £40 paid to those nurses working under the former system. The percentage on which it has been found possible to conduct flourishing nursing co-operations for women in the case both of the Nurses' Co-operation and of the Registered Nurses' Society, is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or 1s. 7d. in the guinea.

The success achieved by such co-operations has occasioned the formation of hybrid institutions which enlist the sympathy of the public by the use of the name "Co-operation," but which neither take the risks incurred by the proprietary institutions, nor work on the small percentage system of the ordinary co-operation. Thus *Truth* pointed out not long ago the enormous profits made by the proprietor of a male nurses' society which supplied nurses for work at Netley during the stress occasioned by the recent war. In the present case it was brought out in evidence that the plaintiff guaranteed the nurses in his employ a minimum of forty-six weeks' employment in the year at £2 a week. When he paid a nurse £2 a week the patient paid £2 7s. per week. Thus the 7s. balance, which forms the percentage charged to the nurses of the Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation, is nearly double that upon which it is proved a co-operation can be successfully worked by women. Incidentally it is of interest to the public to note that it was brought out in the course of the evidence that two of the nurses in the employ of the Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation were not teetotalers; while a nurse belonging

to the Temperance Male Nurses' Co-operation, and formerly its Treasurer, left to take a public-house.

A patient who was taken to the West Ham Workhouse Infirmary on Friday in last week, believed to be suffering from enteric fever, died under strange circumstances the following morning. The male night attendant gave evidence at the inquest held that the deceased man was suffering from delirium tremens, and the doctor gave instructions that if he was violent he must be placed in the padded room. At 1.20 on Saturday morning the witness saw the head of the deceased protruding through the ventilating hole of the padded-room door. He and another attendant tried to push the man's head back, and by the time they succeeded the patient's pulse beat very faintly. They tried artificial respiration, but he died before a doctor could arrive. He tried to telephone for a doctor, but the telephone would not operate. He also sent a message to a nurse. A verdict of "death from suffocation caused by the ventilator" was returned, and the jury added a rider that they were not satisfied with the evidence, and suggested that an inquiry should be held into the affair by the Infirmary authorities. The jury further considered that the padded room should be better ventilated, believing that the deceased had put his head in the ventilator in order to get more air. We entirely agree with the jury that the circumstances of the case call for inquiry.

The District Nurse Fund has been affiliated to the Essex County Nursing Association, and comes under their rules. Nurse Sugg will work the whole of the Urban District of Halsted, instead of St. Andrew's parish only. The Committee have thought it advisable that all patients visited by the nurse should pay the small fee of 2d. per week for her services; but in cases of great necessity this may be remitted by the Committee. We hope the nurse will not be called upon to collect fees.

Miss Moriarty, the Matron of the Isleworth Infirmary, is doing good educational work in that institution, as we gather from the report of the sixth year of the training school. Since July 1st, 1901, six staff nurses who had completed their training have left to take up various appointments, and seven probationers have been promoted to be staff nurses. There are now in the "Home" 23 staff nurses and probationers. One is in her fifth year, two in their fourth, eight in their third, five in their second, and seven in their first year. Lectures and classes have been held by the Medical Superintendent, the Assistant Medical Officer, the Matron, and the Assistant Matron. These were somewhat interrupted in the spring by the epidemic of influenza, so that the examinations have

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