

tion, which he did not desire. He would rather resign than pay it. The Board resolved to pay the amount by making it an addition to the man's salary, as the subscription to the superannuation fund was compulsory. No doubt the male nurse was quite satisfied with the arrangement.

Nurse Gaskin, in her farewell interview with the Banbury Board of Guardians, illustrated the "tone" in many country workhouses by her pert replies. The Board having given the nurse a month's notice, she appeared to think it was quite within her legal right to accept another situation before the expiration of the month.

The only way to make these peripatetic nurses realise the law is to compel them to pay the sum of a month's salary if they break their agreement. The scarcity of nurses in country workhouse wards is the reason, we imagine, why Boards of Guardians do not support one another in nursing matters. The peripatetic nurse just comes and goes as she pleases, greatly to the inconvenience of the officials and inmates in many Poor Law institutions. Will the time ever come, we wonder, when nurses will be encouraged in high places to honour their cloth, and to accept and conform to some ethical standard?

It is sad to have to notify another case of suicide of a nurse. At the inquest at Southampton on Miss Winifred Woods, a nurse at the Shirley Workhouse Infirmary, who took a quantity of nitric acid, a verdict of "Suicide during temporary insanity" was returned.

The strain on the nervous system, which is inseparable from the responsible and highly-skilled work of trained nurses at the present day, from time to time is evidenced by tragedies of this kind.

### "The Beauty of Unimportance."

Miss G. A. Leigh has resigned the position of Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association. We fear it is too much to hope that the hon. officers will appreciate the importance of appointing to the position a lady who understands something of the professional questions with which she will have to deal. Anyway, it is to be hoped that the future secretary will not be permitted to assume an attitude of patronage towards the nurse-members of the Association, whose paid officer she will be. We have not yet forgotten Miss Leigh's impertinent advice to the Lady Consuls of the Association: whilst encouraging nurses to become members, and thus provide the wherewithal, they were to carefully impress upon them "the beauty of unimportance."

### The Hospital World.

#### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

A further sitting of the Lord Mayor's Committee of Inquiry into the affairs of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was held last Monday at the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor presided, and the Committee, after a careful consideration of the evidence taken at the four previous sittings, and after a prolonged discussion, passed the following resolution by fourteen votes to one: "That, in the opinion of this Committee, it is desirable in the public interest to retain St. Bartholomew's Hospital on its present site." It was then decided, on the proposition of the Lord Mayor, to form two sub-committees, the first to deal with buildings and the second with administration and finance, in order to thoroughly investigate the best means of providing a hospital perfect in every detail and brought up to the latest requirements of modern scientific knowledge. These sub-committees will meet until the investigations are complete.

In order to obtain satisfactory results on the present site it will, in our opinion, be necessary to obtain more of the Christ's Hospital land, and, after demolishing the existing hospital, to build, on plans specially designed for the purpose, a modern hospital, providing the various departments necessary for the treatment of the sick as well as administrative offices and the other necessary annexes, such as a Medical School and Nurses' Home.

#### ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

A meeting of the Governors of St. George's Hospital is being held this week to discuss the advisability of selling the present site at Hyde Park Corner, which is worth over a million pounds, and of moving further west, the site suggested being that of the Duke of York's School in King's Road, Chelsea, when the school has been removed.

The reasons for the step proposed are that, in the opinion of some of the more progressive governors, (1) the present site is no longer suited to the requirements of the times; (2) the building is quite inadequate for present purposes; (3) the hospital ought to be in the centre of a more populous district. With the money obtained by the sale of the site it is estimated that a new hospital could be erected and fitted with all modern appliances.

We hope that the scheme will be carried out and that the authorities will be successful in obtaining the suggested site, which seems ideal for the purpose. The tide of progress seems now to be setting towards hospital reform; but it is significant of the conservatism of hospital committees that during the last ten years thousands of pounds have been spent in rebuilding on sites in the centre of the metropolis, where the first requirements of the sick—an abundance of fresh air and space—are unobtainable, and where land is a prohibitive price, so that necessary expansion has been impossible.

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