

called massage, which is supposed to be a system of medical treatment, in the performance of whose 'duties' women dressed as nurses disgrace the nurse's calling, and against whose compromising practices proper registration rightly conducted is the only reasonable protection."

On Wednesday a lady named Deakin, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, committed suicide by throwing herself under a train near Bromsgrove Station. Deceased, who was mentally deranged, had been staying in the district in charge of two nurses, but she managed to escape, and made her way to a level-crossing. She was pursued, and one of the nurses who had come up with her was injured while making a gallant but ineffectual attempt to rescue the lady.

The R.B.N.A. and State Registration.

We understand that the annual meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association on Saturday, June 6th, will be an important one, as, after a silence of seven years, the subject of the State Registration of Trained Nurses is once again to be brought forward. We are informed by many members of the Association that it is quite a new light to them that the appointed delegate of the Executive Committee, and its Medical Hon. Secretary, voted at the Conference convened by the British Medical Association in 1896 against the *principle* of Registration which the Association was founded to further, without any mandate from the members who had associated themselves together for this purpose. We hope that free discussion of the whole question will take place, and that the hon. officers will refrain from their former tactics of silencing from the platform those with whose views they are not in agreement.

The Passing Bell.

It is sad to have to record in one week the suicide of one nurse and the attempted suicide of another. One, Miss Bird, a Queen's Nurse connected with the Handsworth District Nursing Association, was found dead at her lodgings, with a bottle containing poison on the dressing-table; and the other, a nurse named Mary Pickersgill Spencer, of Bedford Row, who was found on a seat on Waterloo Bridge, and who said she was going to throw herself into the river. She was arrested, and remanded later at Bow Street.

It is very important, in these days of high pressure, that nurses who exhibit symptoms of overstrain should be taken off duty. For this reason it is undesirable, if it can be avoided, for nurses to live alone in lodgings.

The Hospital World.

THE NEW NURSES' HOME OF THE BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

The new Nurses' Home in connection with the British Lying-in Hospital in Endell Street, Long Acre, is rapidly approaching completion, and there is every sign that it will be in apple-pie order by Monday, June 8th, when the Princess of Wales will visit the institution and formally open the Home. At present the Hospital can admit twenty ordinary patients and four paying patients, but when the nursing staff are accommodated in their new quarters two more wards of five beds each will be available in the hospital. Space on which to build the Nurses' Home in this busy neighbourhood was very circumscribed, but it is utilised to the best advantage. A dining-room on the basement level sounds unprepossessing, but it is in reality a charming room. It is lighted by a dome of glass, and the effect of the room itself is circular. The colouring is a delightful shade of blue, and the paint is white. White paint, indeed, is much in evidence throughout the building, and, though the effect at present is cleanly, it hardly seems expedient to have used it. While any paint, whether white or not, must, of course, be kept scrupulously clean, it is nevertheless true that it is almost impossible, with the most scrupulous care, in a locality like Endell Street, to prevent black smuts from becoming ingrained in fresh white paint.

The Home contains accommodation for twenty nurses—none too many when we remember that in addition to the in-patients some 700 out-patients are attended in the course of the year. There are two sitting-rooms, one for the monthly nurses and another for the midwifery pupils, which are comfortably furnished. The staircase leading to the bedrooms is covered with teak. The steps are broad and easy of ascent. Each nurse has a bedroom to herself, which is furnished quite in accordance with modern ideas. A useful provision in the basement is the rack of pigeon-holes for the nurses' boots. On each floor are roomy heated cupboards, where linen and blankets can be stored.

The Matron (Miss Gertrude Knott) is evidently looking forward to the time when, with the occupation of the new Home, the nurses will be less cramped for room than is at present the case.

The forthcoming meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses will be of special interest, as it is proposed, on the same afternoon, to make a presentation to Miss Courtenay Smith, the popular Assistant Matron, who will shortly resign this position. As many former Bart's nurses come up to town for their League meeting, the occasion is a happy one for the presentation—which, we understand, will be a handsome one—to take place.

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