

The next morning repeated calls at his bedroom door failed to elicit an answer, and the door was forced open, when M. Demole was found lying undressed dead in bed, having apparently placidly passed away in his sleep. Dr. James Campbell, Bloomsbury Street who was called in, and afterwards made an autopsy, stated that the deceased man was suffering from the first stage of pneumonia, and while thus suffering he expired from syncope his end being clearly accelerated by exhaustion consequent on sea-sickness. Once more the need for trained nurses on passenger boats is emphasised.

The Committee of the Home for Epileptics, Maghull, near Liverpool, speaks appreciatively of the work of the Lady Superintendent (Miss Chilton), the Matrons and nurses, and the outdoor superintendents of work. That this work is no sinecure may be readily gathered from the Medical Report, which states:—"The fact that the patients fell down unconscious 14,036 times, and that no serious accident occurred, speaks well for the organisation of the Home and for the ever-watchful care of the entire staff. Yet the patients are much more free than in their homes, and are less worried than they are by the obtrusive care that relatives always exercise. Upon one point only do we insist, and that is that no patient is allowed to go anywhere alone, but must have a companion, either a patient or nurse. The patients at work, at play, or in bed, are always under the care of some person responsible for their safety. Again, we have patrols, who go about at frequent intervals during the day to see that the patients are all working under safe conditions, and that no one is alone. This is a very important and useful arrangement, as it keeps everybody up to the mark. At night, nurses silently patrol the dimly-lighted dormitories to see that patients are sleeping naturally, and are not being suffocated during an attack. To show the necessity for our arrangements, we may mention that some months ago one patient went home for a short holiday, and was suffocated in bed during the first night of his stay at home.

"Each nurse is required to fill up a slip describing the prominent features of any attack observed by her, and these descriptions are of the first importance in enabling the medical staff to ascertain the species of epilepsy that each patient suffers from. By this arrangement we have dozens of descriptions of the phenomena of the fits of each case by several observers. This is looked upon as of such great importance that a prize has been offered to the nurse who takes the best notes in the greatest number of cases. The prize this year falls to Nurse McLean, who has reported on sixty-two cases. Altogether 264 reports have been sent in since the beginning of the year."

At a recent meeting of the Holywell Rural District Council a letter was read from the Clerk of the Flintshire County Council enclosing a copy of the proposed new county nursing scheme, and inviting the Council's support to and observations upon it. It was decided to express a general approval of the scheme, but to suggest that the period of training for the nurses should be not less than from twelve to fifteen months.

County Councils who contemplate inaugurating nursing schemes will be well advised to consult some nursing authority as to the standard of training it is well to maintain, both in order to ensure to the sick adequate care, and to avoid the depreciation of the standards of nursing education at present in force.

It is inconceivable that any member of a hospital committee should support the retention of "an old bedstead covered by a woollen rug of some sort" as a couch in its out-patient department, on the ground that this arrangement has "done very well for years." Feeling waxed warm on the subject at the recent monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Swansea Hospital, presided over by Mr. Hiram Goldberg, when, according to a local contemporary—

"In the absence of the Chairman of the House Committee, Miss Dillwyn was asked to move the adoption of its minutes, but refused to do so because she disagreed with the recommendation that an examination couch to cost £10 should be purchased for the out-patient department.

"Mr. Geo. Payne moved the adoption of the minutes, remarking that, on sanitary grounds alone, they should have something better than an old bedstead covered by a woollen rug of some sort for the purposes of medical examination.

"The Rev. John Pollock seconded the minutes.

"Miss Dillwyn moved an amendment deleting from the minutes the proposal to spend £10 on an examination couch, observing that the present arrangement had done very well for years.

"Dr. Lancaster (hotly): After protest, and protest, and protest. Yes, and you should be ashamed to own that as a member of the Board.

"The Chairman: Miss Dillwyn is within her rights.

"Dr. Lancaster: After we have protested for years, it is an insult to the medical staff that Miss Dillwyn should say it has gone on for years.

"Eventually the amendment was negatived, and the minutes adopted."

Nurse Balfour, who has recently resigned an appointment at Elgin to take up one at Larbert, has been presented with a fully-equipped bag and dressing-case by some of those who have appreciated her work.

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