

## The Hospital World.

### THE PRINCE ALFRED HOSPITAL, SYDNEY.

The Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, presents an excellent report of the work of the past year, the total number of patients undertreatment having been 3,420. In no department of the work of the institution is progress more noticeable than in the nursing department, and the hospital is fortunate in possessing both liberal-minded directors and a Matron who co-operates with them in their efforts to continually raise the standard of nurse-training to keep pace with modern requirements. We note, with pleasure, that the directors record the benefit resulting from Miss McGahey's public-spirited action in visiting the United States at the time of the International Congress of Nurses, and from the investigations she then made both in relation to British and American hospitals. The Board says:—"During the early part of the year, Miss McGahey, who has occupied the position of Matron with great ability for eleven years past, returned from a visit to Europe and America, which was in the nature of a combined holiday and professional tour. During the eight months she was absent, Miss McGahey collected a great quantity of valuable and up-to-date information respecting English and American hospitals, which has proved of much service in the carrying out of the alterations which have been taking place in the administration block, and in settling the plans and specifications for the new pavilions, especially as to the sanitary and other fittings in the latter. The Matron will for the future be designated Matron and Superintendent of Nursing."

During the past year the nursing staff have been relieved of much of the ward work which fell to their share, thus leaving them free to carry out their more distinctive duties. Changes have also been made in the grading of pupils. During the first three years they are to be known as pupil nurses, while such of them as are specially selected, and desire to stay in hospital for a fourth year, will be known as "Staff Nurses." Those in charge of small wards will be called "Charge Nurses," and "Sister" will, as formerly, be the official title of the superior nurses in charge of large wards.

Other changes are the appointment of an Assistant Matron, and an alteration in the office of Housekeeper, this office being now filled by a senior member of the nursing staff directly subordinate to the Matron.

In common with many Transatlantic hospitals, the Prince Alfred Hospital adopts the good custom of including in its official report one on the department which she superintends from the Matron and Superintendent of Nursing. Miss McGahey's report is as follows:—

### MATRON AND SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSING'S REPORT.

To the CHAIRMAN,—I have the honour to submit my report of the Training-school for Nurses for the year ending December, 1902.

Each year there is an increasing demand for our graduates, both for institutional and private work. In order to maintain a high standard of efficiency amongst the pupils and nurses, and to keep pace with the rapid strides which sick nursing is making in other parts of the world, it is obvious that alterations from time to time in the method of training must take place. Last year several important changes were made in the interests of the nursing staff, and others are now under contemplation. Early in 1902 the hospital housekeeping came under a new régime. This branch of the administrative work, which had hitherto been in charge of a lay member of the community, is now managed by a Sister or Senior Nurse, who occupies the position for a given time. The experience gained in this department is invaluable to the nurse, and beneficial to any hospital which secures her services in the capacity of Matron. The introduction of wardmaids in the latter part of the year was a distinct improvement on the old arrangement, when cleaners did the rough work. By such an alteration the pupils will be relieved of a considerable amount of housemaid's work, and more time will be at their disposal to devote to their professional work.

The teaching has been carried out on much the same lines as in the previous year, with the addition of more class work. The class teaching was under the direction of Sister Hunter, who was appointed in April to the position of Matron's Assistant.

The following were the lecturers for the year:—Drs. Rennie, Mills, Sinclair Gillies, Mr. Hinder, Mr. Warren, Drs. Taylor Young, Morton, Blackburn, Mr. Schuch, Mrs. Small, and myself.

The examiners in the practical work were:—Dr. Purser, Dr. Morton, Dr. Blackburn, Mr. Schuch, Mrs. Eric Mackay, Mrs. Sinclair Gillies, Sister Hunter, and myself.

The lecturers acted as examiners in the theoretical work, Dr. Purser kindly assisting with some of the first and third year papers. The practical work was of a higher standard than in previous years, which is very gratifying to all concerned. There were fifteen first-year pupils examined; of these three obtained first-class honours, and six second-class honours. Eighteen second-year pupil nurses entered at the same time for examination, and of this number five obtained first-class honours, and four second-class honours. Eleven third-year pupil nurses were examined, one of whom got first-class honours, and two second-class honours. Of the forty-three pupils who presented themselves for examination, eight failed to satisfy the examiners in all subjects. The pupils who entered under the new regulations for nurses in November, 1899, have recently completed their three years' training, and have entered on their fourth or post-graduate year. All in the class are going to take advantage of the course.

The experience gained by the graduates during the fourth year will be invaluable. Several special branches will be taught to the members of this class which hitherto have not been dealt with in our curriculum.

The number of applications from those desirous of being received into the Training School still continues

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