

to be far in excess of our requirements. Last year the number of vacancies amounted to eighteen, whereas the number of applications was 250.

The changes in the *personnel* of the staff were caused in the following manner:—Two Sisters left—one to open a private hospital, the other to practise as a private nurse. Ten graduates severed their connection with the hospital, seven of whom are now engaged as private nurses, one went to the New Guinea mission field, and two are working in private hospitals. Six pupils left to return to private life.

The Prince Alfred Hospital Nurses' Re-union still continues to prosper; during the year meetings were held and interesting papers read. Within a few weeks the badges for the members will be available.

The nursing staff has been kept very busy during the year, and, although the daily average number of patients in hospital during 1902 was somewhat below the daily average of the previous year, yet at times the strain put on the staff was very great.

Through the kindness of friends interested in the happiness and welfare of the nursing staff, four delightful picnics were arranged, and took place in the latter part of the year. All nurses in residence then were privileged to have a most enjoyable outing at National Park, which they thoroughly appreciated.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly provided the funds for the nurses' picnic; also those who supplied the prizes for presentation to the nurses, and all others who have helped us on several occasions in a variety of ways.

To the lecturers and examiners I desire to convey my most cordial thanks for their courtesy and untiring efforts in furthering the interests of the Training School.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,
S. B. MCGAHEY,

Matron and Superintendent of Nursing.

An appendix also furnishes a list of all nurses who have gained a certificate from the hospital during the past twelve years, with the date of its being granted. This is an excellent plan, which might with advantage be followed by hospital committees in this country.

It is announced from Adelaide that the Board of Inquiry which has been investigating the allegations of mutilating dead bodies brought against Dr. Ramsay Smith, the Coroner of Adelaide, has exonerated him on all the charges.

According to Professor Lecky, the first hospital was founded by a Roman lady named Fabiola about the fourth century at Rome. Soon after another hospital was founded by St. Pammachus, and another by St. Basil at Caesarea. During the crusades numerous hospitals arose in all parts of Europe. San Spiritu, built by Innocent III., was erected in 1204 at Rome. The first hospital in England was built by Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1030. The first hospital of any size erected in America was the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, begun in 1751.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The actual work of erecting the King's Sanatorium at Midhurst has been commenced, a large gang of men being employed on the foundations of the building. The various portions of the work have been let to different contractors; Sir John Aird is responsible for the water supply and road-making, and Messrs. Longley, of Horsham, have secured the contract for the foundations.

The Duchess of Albany has kindly consented to lay the memorial stone of the Royal Hospital for Children and Women, now in course of construction, and it has been arranged that the ceremony will take place on Monday, October 26th, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Princess Henry of Battenberg has consented to open the bazaar to be held at St. Andrew Hall, Glasgow, on November 15th, in aid of the local Samaritan Hospital. Her Royal Highness will be the guest of Lord and Lady Blythswood.

At the present time several important public buildings are in course of completion in Wolverhampton. Among them is the Women's Hospital, in Connaught Road, which is now practically finished, with the exception of the flooring, internal fitting, and arrangements. This hospital, which is to replace the one now in use in Chapel Ash, has been erected upon a site given by Mr. J. L. Gibbons, who has long been closely associated with the admirable work. The sum of £11,400 is being spent in the provision of this up-to-date hospital for the treatment of the special cases which occupy the attention of the medical staff. The want of such a building has been felt for a considerable period, and doctors and nursing staff have laboured under many difficulties, which, though obscured so far as the general public is concerned, are none the less real. That a new Hospital for Women has been erected the town may congratulate itself. The work, benevolent as it is, deserves the unstinted support of the whole community.

Mr. Cameron Corbett, M.P., has presented 136 acres of land, which he has acquired at Thornliebank, as a public park for Glasgow, on condition that no intoxicating liquors be ever sold thereon.

The monthly meetings of the Swansea Hospital Board of Management are often of a lively character, and at its last meeting the question of reducing the number of beds from 125 to 98 was strongly advocated by Miss Dillwyn, who is a woman of business and objects to the institution running into debt. After much discussion it was agreed to fix the number of beds at 110. Hospital management is increasingly expensive if efficient, and we greatly sympathise with committees in their difficult task in obtaining voluntary contributions. On the other hand, the rates are now so oppressive that middle-class people have little left for charity.

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