

to undertake the duties essential in connection with the higher standard which now obtains. Some changes have taken place, and it seems to us that three of the Sisters have been very liberally dealt with by being allowed to resign their appointments at their convenience within three months. Following these resignations those of four more of the Sisters were sent in, and, although the circumstance may be regrettable, it is probable that the cause for regret will be found with the Sisters, and not with the hospital. Certainly those who know the facts will realise that the Nursing Committee has acted with all consideration, while the nursing world at large does not need to be told that urbanity, kindness of heart, and wise discretion are conspicuous characteristics of the Matron.

It has been asserted that the resignations of nurses and probationers are also being tendered. This, we are assured, is entirely incorrect, and, indeed, it is hardly credible that any probationer would deliberately prejudice her future nursing career by any such ill-considered action. Certainly she would find it exceedingly difficult to enter the nursing school of any other hospital under the circumstances.

One point in the new regulations seems to have caused some dissatisfaction. Formerly, not only Sisters, but nurses and probationers also, were allowed, besides leave until 10.30 on other evenings, leave until 11.30 p.m. once a week. Under the new regulations the times off duty for probationers and nurses are from 10 till 12 or 2 till 5 daily, late leave being readily granted by the Matron for special purposes. The Nursing Committee are certainly wise in making this alteration, from whatever point of view it may be regarded. If nurses who work hard all day are not in bed on one night in the week until 12 p.m., they cannot rise at 6 a.m. and perform their morning's work in the wards without detriment to their own health and the efficiency of the service rendered. The hospital authorities stand to young probationers *in loco parentis*, and we are glad that they have realised their responsibilities in this connection. Certainly none of the other principal London training-schools allow their nurses such liberty in the matter of late leave, and the change is one which must commend itself to all sensible people.

At the recent examination of the Obstetrical Society of London, Nurses C. Eastham, F. Hill, F. Spencer, and A. Parly succeeded in gaining the midwives' certificate. These nurses received their general and midwifery training at the Walton Workhouse Infirmary, Liverpool.

It will be a convenience to many persons residing in the Marylebone district to know that, in the event of their needing a daily nurse, one is to be found near

at hand. Miss Newport, a certificated nurse and masseuse (late of the West London Hospital), living at 33, Upper Montague Street, Bryanston Square, is devoting herself to daily nursing. Her charges are at the rate of 10s. 6d. for attending operations, and 2s. 6d. an hour for medical and surgical cases. For massage her charge is 6s. an hour, or 3s. 6d. for half an hour.

The Blackburn Board of Guardians have decided to increase their grant to the Darwen Nurses' Association from £20 to £30 per annum. Mr. Riley, who at a recent meeting of the Board moved this additional grant, said that the Association had rendered excellent service to the district. It was established some twelve years ago with two nurses, but the staff had since been doubled, thereby entailing greater expense. Through the addition of the fourth nurse during the past year, the expenditure had increased by about £70. Last year's income, from all sources, including calls to the mills, amounted to £386, whilst the expenditure was £402, leaving a deficit of £16, which had to be taken from the small reserve fund the Association had in hand. Referring to the work of the institution, Mr. Riley said that last year the cases attended to by the nurses numbered 606, no fewer than 11,801 visits being paid to the patients, while many of them were parish cases, one family alone receiving 361 visits.

The Blackburn Guardians are wise to make provision for the nursing of the outdoor poor, thus, no doubt, avoiding the greater expense of taking many of them into the infirmary.

The Paris correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* sends the following interesting information:—

“Following a report addressed to the President of the Republic by M. Camille Pelletan, Minister of the Navy, in which he called attention to numerous irregularities and abuses in naval hospitals under the supervision of sisters of mercy, the President has just issued a decree by which all naval hospitals cease to be managed by sisters of mercy, the Minister being charged with the execution of the decree. In the *Journal Officiel* M. Camille Pelletan has since published regulations for the wards, workshops and stores in naval hospitals. The sisters of mercy are replaced by male nurses who are under the supervision of ‘infirmiers-majors’ for the care of the sick and the distribution of medicines and food. The ‘infirmiers-majors’ make a report to the physician on duty each morning, and are responsible for the cleanliness, heating, ventilation, &c., of the wards under their care. M. Bouveri, in the Chamber of Deputies, has since asked General André, the Minister of War, to follow the example of his colleagues at the Admiralty, and order the laicisation of all military hospitals. General André, in reply, stated that this being the existing condition in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)