

A somewhat interesting case is given by Carstairs :— A father and son were cornet players, and were attacked with diphtheria. The instrument was put away, but four years later was found by a younger member of the family. He played it, and developed diphtheria in a week, although there had been no other cases in the district for eight months previously.

(To be continued.)

An Inaccurate Statement.

In the report of the Special General Meeting held by the R.B.N.A. to discuss the Synopsis of a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the *Hospital* issued on the 16th inst. made an inaccurate statement in referring to our remarks. We therefore desired the editor to insert the following letter, which he has not done :—

"Sir,—I must request you to correct an error in your report of the meeting held by the Royal British Nurses' Association on January 8th. You state that 'Mrs. Bedford Fenwick also criticised unfavourably the appropriation of nurses' fees to the general expenses of the Board.' I did no such thing.

"Manifestly the reason we nurses must pay a fee for Registration is that the expenses of the organisation which conducts our business must be paid.

"I asked for information on a paragraph in Section 4 in the Synopsis of the proposed Bill, dealing with finance, to which the Chairman returned a satisfactory reply."

The journalistic ethics of the publication in question are too well known to need further comment.

The Passing Bell.

We regret to record the death from an accident of Nurse Molyneux, a probationer at the Hackney Infirmary. The nurse was in the cubicles allotted to the nursing staff, and was combing her hair in front of the fire when her clothing caught fire. She rushed in flames to another cubicle, where a nurse was in bed asleep, and threw herself on the bed, scorching the bedclothes and communicating the flames to the curtain dividing one cubicle from the other. Fortunately her screams quickly brought assistance, and Nurse Milton with admirable presence of mind turned on the fire-hose, and sent a strong stream of water first over the nurse and then over the room. Unhappily the injuries received by Nurse Molyneux were so severe that she died three days later. A scrubber who helped to extinguish the flames was also seriously scorched.

At the inquest it was shown that the deceased nurse was wearing a flannelette nightdress. The Coroner pointed out the extreme danger of this practice, and said there was hardly a week passed but some child was burnt to death through its nightdress coming in contact with the fire.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

A Special General Meeting of the above Society was held on Saturday, January 23rd, at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, at 3 p.m. Miss Isla Stewart presided.

The meeting was called "to receive and consider Amendments suggested to the Draft Bill for the State Registration of Nurses."

Miss Stewart said that in accordance with the resolution passed at the annual meeting the Draft Bill, after having been accepted in principle at a Special General Meeting of members held on November 28th, had been widely circulated to Hospital Boards of Management with Training-Schools attached, to Medical Bodies, Nursing Corporations, Nurses' Societies, Women's Societies, Members of Parliament, and others; that numerous valuable suggestions for the amendment of the Bill had been received, some of which had been incorporated in the Bill before them, after having been unanimously approved by the Executive Committee, and carefully revised by a Parliamentary draftsman.

The Chairman then called on the Hon. Secretary to read the Draft Bill, clause by clause, as amended.

Mrs. Fenwick said that many of the alterations were merely verbal, but that the constitution of the General Nursing Council had been somewhat altered in accordance with the request of certain sections of the nursing profession, and others whose interests were affected by the Bill.

In the amended constitution it was recommended that the medical representation should be more clearly defined. This had been done by inserting clauses providing that five registered medical practitioners, "who shall be Lecturers or Teachers of Nursing in Nurse-Training Schools attached to General Hospitals," should be appointed by the General Medical Council, and that one registered medical practitioner should be appointed by the British Medical Association.

It was thought right that a certain number of Matrons should take their seats on the Council as the directly-elected representatives of their colleagues. Provision had also been made for naval and military nurses to be represented, as we must look to the latter Service in future for training male nurses. The new regulations for training orderlies provide for the first time for an efficient curriculum of practical and theoretical training under skilled Matrons and Sisters for men. Hitherto the only training available for men had been in institutions for the treatment of special diseases. Mrs. Fenwick read a letter from Miss Honor Morten (acting for the Asylum Workers' Association) *re* Registration, asking for direct representation of mental nurses, and suggesting that this Association should be included in the societies empowered to

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