

Nursing Echoes.

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The report of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund for 1903 records the gratifying facts that during the year the contributions have doubled, and that as a result an additional annuity has been issued. Sir Thomas Smith, Sir Thomas Barlow, and Dr. de Havilland Hall have become patrons of the fund.

The Home for Queen's Nurses in Darlington, founded as a memorial to the late Mr. Arthur Pease, has closed the year with a balance on the wrong side. The nurses, who, in the beginning of their residence in the town, had to overcome a large amount of prejudice, have now succeeded in dispelling it, and their services are valued alike by doctors and patients. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Home will receive increased support.

We are glad to note that the Annual Meeting of the New Dalaval and District Nursing Association has decided to replace the "cottage nurse"—who is resigning her position in order to enter a hospital and become fully qualified—by a thoroughly trained nurse. This action is to be commended.

The annual meeting of the Leeds Trained Nurses' Institution was held recently at the Home, 21, Hyde Terrace, Leeds. Mr. J. E. Maude (chairman of the Committee) presided. The hon. secretary (Mrs. W. H. Thorp) read the report, in which it was stated that the usefulness and efficiency of the institution under the able superintendence of Miss Dawson was maintained, notwithstanding the increasing provision for nursing in the city. The number of cases attended was 943, and seventy-eight had to be declined because a nurse was not at liberty when application was made. The staff includes eighty-five nurses engaged in private nursing, and seventeen probationers in training at hospitals. It was stated that the district nursing branch of the institution continues to do increased and excellent work amongst the poor of the city, 3,058 cases having been attended during the year. The visits paid by the nurses amounted to the large number of 68,804, exceeding that of any other year.

The terrible tragedy at the Asylum at Ports

mouth, where four patients died after taking sleeping draughts of chloral and bromide of potassium, was the subject of an inquiry by the Portsmouth Coroner on Monday last. Miss Hamilton Marion Watson, who prescribed and dispensed the draughts, said that each dose contained 30 grains of chloral and 30 grains of bromide of potassium, diluted with 2 oz. of water. A mixture of this strength was kept in a large bottle in the dispensary and the draughts were usually administered from it. She was aware that there was a concentrated solution of chloral and bromide in the surgery, but did not know there was a smaller bottle of pure chloral until after the tragic event.

It is stated that, unknown to Miss Watson, the bottle of concentrated solution had been put on the dispensary shelf in the place usually occupied by the dilute solution. Surely, however, a bottle containing so dangerous a poison would bear a label on which its strength was conspicuously described, as well as a red poison label.

Mr. Adlaw, the head attendant at the Asylum, said he was not a qualified dispenser, but, when instructed to do so by the medical officer, he dispensed medicines.

Dr. Merry, acting medical superintendent, described the efforts made to save the lives of the women. Nothing was left undone.

The inquiry was adjourned for a week.

The friction between the officers and the nurses at the Poor Law Infirmary at Bristol still continues, and, so long as the Guardians are so divided in opinion as to the best means of removing it, friction is likely to continue. It is a pity the Board are not more in sympathy with Miss Clifford's views—they are pacific and sensible. At a recent meeting of the Board, Mr. Sheppard moved that the general question of the relations of the officers at Stapleton Workhouse be referred to the Hospital and Rota Committee. He said that for two years things had been in an unsatisfactory condition, and there was a want of confidence between the subordinates and heads of departments. Mr. Boutflower said that, whilst he did not oppose the matter going to a special committee, he wished to point out that no complaint had been made to the Hospital Committee, to whom a nurse should make complaint. It was a bad precedent to encourage officers who had a grievance to make complaint to other people than the Committee which had charge of the hospital matters. Miss Clifford said she could not understand the jealousy which existed between committees, neither could she understand why members of the Board who had information did not give it to the proper committee. They were all there to do their best, and all should try to strengthen the work by giving information to the right persons. She hoped the

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