

Some few weeks back Nurse Livingstone was not reappointed to her position. She left for London, but, it was said, returned the day before the fire, ostensibly to see a doctor.

Superintendent Summers, of the County Police, stated that in company with Head Constable Sparling, of Wycombe, he visited Kent House, Great Portland Street, on the previous day, and saw the accused. He asked her to explain her whereabouts on Whit-Sunday, and she replied she spent the Saturday night at Brixton, leaving on the Sunday morning *via* Victoria to Paddington, whence she took the 8.40 train to Wycombe. On consulting a timetable the officers found that the first train from Brixton to Victoria that morning was 9.47, so that, said witness, she could not have left Paddington an hour earlier. Miss Hald, the Matron at Kent House, asked Nurse Livingstone to give the names and addresses of the people whom she said she had visited at Brixton, but the accused refused, saying she did not want to bring disgrace upon them.

The accused was remanded, bail being allowed. On Monday last, at Marlow Police Court, Nurse Livingstone was again charged with setting fire to the Booker Isolation Hospital between the evening of May 21st and morning of the 22nd. Struggling with a female warder and shouting, the accused created a most painful scene in court.

"Men are going to hang me on Daw's Hill, I see it burning," she screamed, and, crying bitterly, continued to declare that she was being hung.

Further evidence was given, and the accused was remitted to the assizes, the same bail being allowed.

From the local reports of this serious fire, which has destroyed £700 worth of property—to which we referred in our issue of May 28th—it appeared as if, although there were five patients in the hospital, the majority children suffering with scarlet fever, there was no night nurse on duty. We have made inquiries on this point at headquarters, but, so far, have received no official information from the High Wycombe Corporation, which is responsible for the management of the institution.

The Nurses' National Associated Alumnae of the United States have just held their seventh annual Convention in Philadelphia, at which the present honorary officers were all re-elected—Miss Mary M. Riddle, President; Miss Mary E. Thornton, Secretary; and Miss Healy, Treasurer. One afternoon was devoted to discussing the absorbing question of State Registration, which was handled with interest and enthusiasm by nurses from various States. Amongst the papers read were "Reports of State Societies," by Miss Palmer; "The Justice of an Examining Board Composed of Nurses," by Miss S. H. Cabaniss; "The Necessity for Low Standards in the Beginning," by Miss T. C. Rose; and "State Reciprocity," by Miss M. A. Nutting.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpol Street, W.*



At the recent quarterly court of the London Hospital Her Majesty the Queen was elected President by the votes of the Governors in accordance with the Charter. Mr. Holland, the Chairman, said such an ac was a great compliment to the hospital, because Her Majesty would not allow her name to be associated with anything that was not of the highest order. It was not the first occasion on which Her Majesty had shown her confidence in that great hospital, for it was entirely through her efforts that the lupus cure had been introduced there and into the country. We hope the Queen will use her influence to procure for the probationers who enter this institution for training an extension from two to three years' practical work in the wards. All other large training-schools have come into line in this matter, and it is only fair that London Hospital nurses should enjoy the same privilege.

Chatting with a reporter in *Our Charities and Hospitals Illustrated*, Miss Swift, the Matron of "Guy's," told him that "At present we have about 245 nurses in the hospital and 115 in the institution, which is in St. Thomas Street, quite separate from the hospital. Here we draft, when they have finished their training, those nurses who desire to go in for private work, and we have plenty of demand for them. There are certain features about our arrangements that I should like you to note. In the first place, we do not allow nurses there to work in the hospital wards. After leaving a case, they are quite free until their next engagement, and though we pay them a fixed sum of £40 a year, we pool the whole of their earnings from private cases and divide it according to length of service. Last Christmas our senior nurses thus obtained a bonus of £48 each. We believe this plan encourages the nurses, and we hold it right to give them in this way the whole of their earnings."

"We merely touched," says the interviewer, "on the great question that is convulsing the nursing world. Miss Swift believes in registration as absolutely necessary to protect the public and the nurse, but she thinks that as yet nurses are not ready for it, and that it will come in its own good time."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)