

children, over 200 of whom were suffering from infectious diseases, including diphtheria, scarlet fever, whooping cough, and mumps, were treated as in-patients; that little children even more than adults are specially dependent upon skilled nursing in all serious illness; and, further, that if, as is proposed, trained nurses are imported on emergency arising, it will be impossible for them to serve under the orders of uncertificated women. They also draw attention to the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the district that the present infirmary accommodation is quite inadequate, there is no separate block where infectious diseases can be isolated, and that the disinfectant now relied upon is useless for the purpose.

At an inquest held last week by Dr. Danford Thomas, with reference to the death of a child of three, living in the Marylebone district, the jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes," and added a rider regretting that the nurse concerned "exercised her judgment in the case contrary to that of the medical adviser." The circumstances of the case were that the child was suffering from diphtheria, and the doctor in attendance recommended its removal to a hospital with a view to operation. When the nurse arrived with the ambulance she said the child was too far gone to be removed. It was, therefore, kept at home, and died about twelve hours afterwards.

The nurse, in her evidence, said when she arrived she thought the child was dying fast. She told the parents she could not remove the child on her own responsibility. She did not send to the doctor, as the hour was so late. She did not think the child would have lived so long. She knew now she had made a mistake in not sending for the doctor.

The Coroner stated that a full inquiry would be made into the case by the authorities, and he would forward the verdict of the jury to them.

The report presented at the annual meeting of the Queen Victoria Nursing Institution, Wolverhampton, showed a highly successful year's working. During the past year the nurses have attended 255 cases under 96 medical men. The number of patients received was 108, and there were 103 surgical operations. Several speakers bore testimony to the remarkable success of the operations performed, and the great care and skill displayed by the nurses. During the past six years the Committee have advanced no less a sum than £2,321 to the district branch, to enable it to carry on the gratuitous work of nursing the sick poor.

At the quarterly meeting of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses (Scottish

Branch), the usual report on three months stated that, in addition to the permanent staff of five Queen's Nurses, the Council were responsible for thirty-nine probationers at various stages of hospital and district training. Eight nurses completed training, and of these six were engaged by affiliated associations. A new branch had been formed at Strathkinness, Fifeshire. Greenock and Elgin had provided homes for their respective nurses. The nurses under fifty-eight branches had been inspected and reported on to the Executive Committee. Owing to the increase of branches and of nurses employed, the Council had appointed Miss Rumsey to be an assistant inspectress. Cases nursed in Edinburgh from the training home, 1,538; visits paid, 25,974; cases still on books, 414. The Convener of Finance Committee reported that he had received intimation of a bequest of half of the residue of Miss Ann Clarkson's estate, likely to yield £100 to £120.

The extraordinary action of the nurses at the Banbridge Union Infirmary, who refused, with one exception, to carry out an order of the Guardians to accompany the ambulance to the residence of a patient and bring her into the institution, was the subject of discussion at a recent meeting of the Guardians. The Medical Officer denied that he had authority to compel the nurses to go outside the infirmary, and the Master also disclaimed responsibility. The only nurse found willing to carry out the Guardians' wishes was the night nurse, and the Board have returned thanks to her for her action. Surely the needs of the sick should have some part in regulating the actions of these nurses, even if the directions of the Guardians whom they serve have no weight with them.

The following sad item of news comes to us from Rio de Janeiro:—On Friday, May 6th, at between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, Sister Grewer, one of the most highly esteemed of the Sisters on the nursing staff of the Stranger's Hospital, left her room, stating, in answer to a question addressed to her by one of her companions, that she was going for a walk. As she had not returned at two o'clock, when she should have gone on duty, the Matron reported her absence to the hon. secretary of the hospital, who, on the following morning, as she had not even then returned, communicated with the police authorities, who at once took steps to endeavour to discover what had become of her. She was traced to the Igreja at Copacabana, where she had been seen by two persons at about eleven o'clock on the morning of the 6th, one of those persons describing her appearance and costume very accurately. Since then, no trace whatever has been found of the unfortunate lady, who, it is surmised, must either have fallen or have been swept into the sea, by wind or wave, from the slippery

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