

and one is in immediate charge of the wards for the senile and infirm male patients. The male sick room and the infirm wards, which contain 131 patients, are staffed by thirteen nurses. The success of these arrangements was evident during the visit, the care of the patients was most efficient, and the nursing of the sick was all that could be desired. The staff for night duty consists of fifteen nurses and six attendants, twenty-one in all, which gives a ratio of 1 to 34. Of the fifteen night nurses, four are on the male side, two in the sick ward, and two in the senile and infirm ward. To the Night Superintendent, who is a trained hospital nurse, is entrusted the supervision of both the male and female night staff. It will therefore be evident that the care and treatment of the patients is provided for as efficiently during the night as during the day. No patient is locked up in a single room during the night, each room being furnished with an inside handle by which the door can be opened. This system of administration is undoubtedly a great advance in the care and treatment of the insane.

The result of this system is that two Commissioners report that there has been no employment of mechanical restraint or seclusion in the treatment of any patients since their last visit. What a change since the days when lunatics were chained like wild animals, and bedded in straw! Even so lately as 1827 the patients in the Bethlem Hospital (popularly known as Bedlam), were chained to their beds from Saturday night till Monday morning so that their keepers might have a holiday. We are slowly learning that no patients need more tenderness, kindness, and patience than those whose brains are clouded and whose minds are unbalanced by disease.

Brownlow Hill Infirmary.

The Sub-Committee which has been investigating the charges relating to the treatment of several patients in the Brownlow Hill Workhouse Infirmary, Liverpool, has, we understand, presented its report to the Workhouse Committee. The Report, we are informed, shows that the charges, as made public, were seriously exaggerated, but calls for a revised code of rules for working the institution.

Nurses in a Bayonet Mée.

Of the conduct of the Red Cross nurses at Liaoyang Captain Uralsky writes:—"Our men were brave, but our women's bravery put them to scorn. Mdle. Lopatkin, though thrice injured by shell splinters, continued to help the wounded under fire, and was helping a wounded Siberian to limp to the rear when she was killed by a bullet. Two other nurses got mixed up in the most ferocious bayonet fighting I have ever dreamed of, but they were cooler than any tough veteran of the war of 1877-78."

Progress of State Registration.

A correspondent from New Zealand writes:—

"There is nothing glaring or revolutionary in the New Zealand results of registration, but rather a steady trend of public opinion regarding the status and qualifications of nurses sent by doctors to private cases. Of course, the medical profession *will* employ untrained women when it suits their convenience, but patients' friends are beginning to be particular that the nurse sent should be 'a State registered nurse.' Formerly, the wearing of a uniform by the nurse was the chief criterion!"

Quite so. When the public realises that at present it has no guarantee of efficiency when engaging a nurse, it will be with us in demanding protection from all the "deficients" who at present batten upon its ignorance.

The following case may bring home to the sick the risks of present conditions:—A nurse was required at a fever hospital to nurse a case of diphtheria. One was sent for to a local institution. Presently the Superintendent herself arrived, saying, as there was no nurse to send she had come herself, but she could only stay a few hours, as she was engaged to attend a maternity case at any minute! Of course, the Matron of the fever hospital would not permit the lady to go near the diphtheria case. But just imagine the gross ignorance, or lack of conscience, upon the part of the woman who proposed such an arrangement. And there are plenty of that sort about.

OPPOSITION TO STATE REGISTRATION.

We are informed that at a meeting of the Council of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, held on November 16th, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That in the opinion of this Council the proposed measure for the State Registration of nurses is calculated to be of injury to the public without compensating advantages, as its tenency would be to encourage the practice of medicine and surgery by unqualified persons, and the Council pledges itself to use its best endeavours to prevent the passage of the measure through Parliament."

The following letter appeared in last week's *British Medical Journal*:—

THE DECISIONS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.

SIR,—I should be glad to have the opinion of yourself and of members of the Association on the following question:—A matter of importance having reference to proposed legislation is brought before the Divisions, and finally before the Annual Representative Meeting, where it is discussed. A vote is taken, with the result that a resolution in favour of a certain principle is carried by a large majority, and ordered to be forwarded to a certain Committee (not of the Association), which happens at the time to be engaged in an

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