

we can hardly blame the probationer, but there surely ought to be efficient supervision, and it is time that the hospital authorities revised the system under which such accidents are possible."

A probationer in charge, a kettle with the screw fixed, the "spreader" away for repairs—is it any wonder that boiling water was poured on this unfortunate infant? It is time not only that the system should be revised by the hospital authorities, but that a central authority should supervise the scheme of nursing education in all hospitals.

A circular letter was read at a recent meeting of Chorlton Union Guardians, sent from the Bradford Board of Guardians, as to the recognition of workhouse infirmaries as training homes for midwives. It was pointed out that the Central Midwives' Board had refused to so recognise the Bradford workhouse hospital in face of the fact that the training-school of the Union had turned out an average of eleven nurses annually who had passed the examinations and obtained the certificates of the London Obstetrical Society. Further, all similar applications, except two, had been refused throughout the country, and as it was impossible for successful action to be taken by an individual Board of Guardians the joint effort of all the Boards was necessary. The letter was accompanied by a copy of a memorial to the Central Midwives' Board, and this was unanimously supported by the Chorlton Board.

Already there is a danger of the exploitation of midwives by the searcher after an easy means of livelihood. At Dartford Police-court last week several charges were heard against William Morgan, representing himself as an official of the Central Midwives' Board, of obtaining fees for entering names in the register. It was asserted that he told the credulous that when the register was completed, copies would be placed on all church doors and in the public libraries, so that the public can tell who are proper maternity nurses. In the case of one lady, for whom, it was said, he prepared an official certificate at a charge of half a sovereign, evidence was given that he had stated he was sent by the board to see the size of the parishes and how many nurses would be required. He was committed for trial.

A terrible tragedy was undoubtedly averted on Monday last at the Bucks County Asylum, Stone, by the coolness and courage of the Matron and nursing staff. A nurse gave the alarm that the roof of the Nurses' Home was on fire. As the roof was a dangerously-inflammable wooden one, covered with slates, and was in close proximity to the women's quarters, the danger was great. The Matron, Miss Millard, who was first on the scene, rung the fire alarm, then as the nurses, who are carefully taught their

fire drill, came flocking up she gave the emergency orders, and, in her own words, "they carried them out just as coolly as they did when we had our last drill a few weeks ago.

"See to the patients" was the first order. Three rooms away—with the fire already crackling over her head—lay an old lady who was bedridden through an accident she met with at Christmas. Before she knew that anything was amiss, she was carefully lifted out of bed by some of the nurses and carried along the corridor to a place of safety. Other nurses ran to the dormitories, and very quietly moved the other patients further away, and stood guard over them. There was, of course, a good deal of excitement among the women, but they were as tractable and as obedient as lambs."

Then the asylum fire brigade turned out, and the nurses gave them all the assistance in their power. They ran into the burning rooms, dragged out everything they could, lugged the hose pipes along the passages, and when the water began to collect in deep pools along the corridors and in the rooms, they armed themselves with brooms and swept it away.

A charred wreck is all that remains of the nurses' bedrooms, but thanks to the promptitude with which everyone tackled the situation an appalling catastrophe was averted, and the fire was under control by the time the Aylesbury Fire Brigade arrived on the scene.

From the annual report of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary we learn that the average number of nurses and probationers during the year was 218, the number at the beginning of the year having been 203, and at its close 221. There were 732 applications for admission during the year, against 642 in the previous year. Seventy-five nurses left during the year, of whom eight have become Matrons or Superintendents of Nurses in other institutions; three have joined the Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service, three have joined the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, seven have become nurses in other hospitals at home and abroad, two have left for maternity training, five have taken up private nursing work, sixteen have returned to their homes, and three left to be married. Of the pupil nurses twenty-seven have returned to their respective institutions. The health of the nurses has with few exceptions been excellent, and the managers desire to express their thanks to Dr. Bruce and Mr. Caird for their kindness and attention to those who have required treatment. The managers gladly acknowledge the efficient superintendence and administrative ability of the Superintendent, Colonel Warburton, C.S.I., and the faithful and conscientious manner in which the Lady Superintendent of Nurses, Miss Spencer, and her assistants and staff have carried on their important work.

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