

were permitted. It was to be hoped that this privilege would be granted to the nurses during the year. The expenditure on railway fares and trams had amounted to £50.

At a recent meeting of the Salford Day Nursing Home it was suggested district baby shows should be held in the township. Such a departure would encourage people to take more care in the bringing up of their children. The proposal was agreed to.

The nursing department at the Lyminge Workhouse appears in a very undisciplined condition. The Superintendent Nurse has been suspended for striking a patient, and one nurse appears to take what time she chooses off duty according to the porter's books; in fact, it is time the Local Government Board called "time."

The Notts Health and Sanitary Committee, stated recently that twenty-two certified midwives had notified their intention to practice in the county within the last three months, making a total of ninety-three for the year. The medical officer had received four special reports upon cases of puerperal fever (two fatal), and one midwife had been suspended from practising for fourteen days. The nurse inspector, Miss Ross, had inspected the case books and appliances of forty-five certified midwives during the quarter. Of these midwives, seven could neither read nor write, and six could not write but could read a little. The committee had further considered the question of the training of midwives, but they are of opinion that this most important question is one to a large extent beyond the scope of County Councils, and must depend more upon the efforts of individuals than of local authorities. The committee are of opinion, however, that something might be done with the help of the Higher Education Committee in the county, by the holding of lectures of instruction or by the granting of scholarships. With this object they are asking the Higher Committee to appoint a small sub-committee to meet a sub-committee of the Health Committee to discuss the question.

We quite agree that the important question of the education and control of midwives is beyond the scope of County Councils which exclude women from taking part in their work. If we were not such a very dull people, the absurdity of the position would have appealed to a sense of the ridiculous long ago.

It is reported that the threatened strike of nurses at the Ryhope Asylum, Sunderland, has been averted. The Committee have reduced the fine of 6d. per minute for coming on duty late, and it is expected that the nurses will accept the new proposal, and continue their duties.

One of the nurses has been giving her views on

the subject. She produced a copy of the notice, which runs as follows:—

"The Visiting Committee has resolved to impose a fine of 6d. for every minute that a nurse or attendant is late in coming on duty in the morning if more than fifteen minutes late a half-day's leave will be forfeited, and a fine imposed of 6d. for every minute beyond that fifteen; if more than thirty minutes late a whole day's leave will be forfeited and a fine imposed of 6d. for every minute beyond the thirty."

Their complaint is that they have very little time off duty, as compared with other asylums.

The time is from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. for four days a week, and two days from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and one from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

They are allowed twenty minutes three times a day for meals.

The nurse further said: "We have one week-day off in the month, and that always falls off when it is our night off at 6 p.m.; we have one Sunday off in every three; we are not allowed off duty until 9 a.m., and there are no trains after 9.10 a.m., so if we wish to go anywhere by train we cannot get."

"Before this notice was issued we used to lose our day if we were over fifteen minutes late after 10 p.m., and the nurses after 9 p.m. We have to forfeit our day, leaving us without any time off in the month, and most of the other asylums have a day off every week, and a whole Sunday off in three."

No one can fail to agree that the working hours of the nurses at Ryhope Asylum are abnormally long, leave far too short, and meal times conducive to indigestion and consequent ill-health. We are of opinion that the arrangements at many asylums are equally unjust, and that we should hear less of the ill-treatment of the poor insane creatures admitted into them in our law courts if the nurses and attendants employed were more rationally treated themselves. Overworked drudges are totally unfitted mentally and physically to have the care of these sad and trying sick ones.

The quarterly report of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was laid before the Scottish Council at their last meeting. The following are extracts from it:—The Council were responsible for eight Queen's nurses and for thirty-eight probationers, of whom nineteen were training in various hospitals, and nineteen in the Scottish District Training Home. During the three months ten probationers entered the Home for District Training, of these three failed; two probationers entered on trial for hospital, of whom one failed. Five nurses completed training, one of whom was engaged by a local committee at Stornoway. Five nurses resigned their appointments, one for private nursing, two for marriage, and two on

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