

wait on twelve little children.—Miss Davis, the Matron, said she had always endeavoured to manage the institution with every regard for economy. With regard to the staff, if the Board decreased it now they would, in the event of an epidemic, be compelled to engage the services of another nurse at a much higher rate of salary.—Mr. Collett proposed that the staff be reduced by one nurse and the general servant, but an amendment that no action be taken in the matter was carried by the Chairman's casting vote.

It is a well-known fact that to be obliged to make a considerable addition to the staff of an institution during an epidemic is as costly as well as an unsatisfactory method of management. Over-staffing must, therefore, at times take place, and the happy mean be arrived at.

Colonel F. Sylvester, North Hall, near Chorley, has put in the hands of trustees £10,000, the interest to be devoted to the Hospital Nursing Sisters or any other service of the poor irrespective of creed.

The Dundee Sick Poor Nursing Association, which is in affiliation with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, is a charity which does excellent work. It was founded ten years ago, the staff then being a Superintendent and one nurse. Now ten nurses are employed. Since its foundation the Superintendent has been Miss Mackay, who was trained at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and the Leeds General Infirmary, and the Association owes much to her wise oversight. The total number of visits paid last year was 1,871. It is a satisfactory feature of the work that it is self-supporting, obtaining its income from public subscriptions, and receiving no grant from the central fund in London.

Those nurses who visited the Berlin hospitals last year will be interested to know that before long that city is to have the largest hospital in the world, named after a famous scientist, the Rudolf Virchow Hospital. It is to have a staff of 650 doctors, nurses, and servants, and accommodation for 2,000 patients. In estimating the size of this institution, it may be mentioned that the London Hospital has 780 beds. The Rudolf Virchow, therefore, will be nearly three times as large. With an efficiently organised system of training, it should thus afford a unique training-ground for nurses.

The Matrons of some of the large German hospitals keep watch over the physical condition of their Sisters and pupil-nurses by having them weighed regularly every two weeks. Records are kept of the weight of each nurse, and if they show a loss the nurse is sent to the physician without waiting for further symptoms of running down.

The city of Berlin, says the *American Journal*

of Nursing, has a remarkably complete system of provision for first aid, both medical and surgical—not gratuitous, but for moderate payment.

There are, first, in different parts of the city twenty-two "Unfallstationen." These are clean, good, appropriately furnished suites of two or three rooms each, with a couple of beds, every surgical or medical appliance and restorative, dressing or bandaging-room, and physician with attendant on duty night and day. Persons suddenly taken ill or injured are brought to one of these stations, from whence they may be sent home or to hospital as the case requires. All through the streets one sees lamp-posts with transparencies which at night are lit, telling where the nearest accident station is.

There is also a central office of the Berliner Rettungs-Gesellschaft, which has twenty-four branches, mostly in hospitals, and through any one of these "Sanitätswachen" medical aid may be called night or day, and, also, information can be had as to which hospitals have empty beds and which are the proper hospitals for cases in question to be sent to, &c.

Twenty-one police stations, mostly in outlying districts, and all of the fire departments have medical and surgical chests ready for first aid, with outfit of drugs, bandages, &c., and there are stretchers in eighteen police stations. City market houses all have a "Sanitäts Stube," or first-aid room. On the other hand, the ambulance system is not so well developed.

We regret to record the death of Lady Bloomfield, who, in 1874, founded the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, with the object of assisting nurses in necessitous circumstances, and in which she has taken a deep and continuous interest. Her death occurred after a long illness at Bramfield House, Hertford, on Sunday last, and will be lamented by a wide circle of friends.

### The Rural Midwives' Association.

The annual meeting of the Rural Midwives' Association was held last week at the residence of the Hon. Mrs. Gretton, 66, Ennismore Gardens. Dr. Handfield Jones presided in the absence of the Earl of Harrowby, president of the Association. The report of the committee was read by Mrs. Heywood Johnstone, and stated that twenty-six women were sent to training institutions during the past year, making fifty-one in all since the work was started. Of these thirty-five were now at work in eleven counties. The committee had had several applications for assistance in the initial expense of training, which seemed to be one of the chief difficulties in working the Act in rural districts, but their funds had not enabled them to do more than give the reduced training fee to subscribers. The report was adopted and the Executive Committee was re-elected.

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