

King Edward the Seventh's Coronation National Fund for Nurses in Ireland.

At the first Annual Meeting of King Edward VII.'s Coronation National Fund for Nurses in Ireland, held at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, under the presidency of Mr. Arthur Chance, F.R.C.S., President of the College, the report was presented by Sir Andrew Reed, K.C.B. Its adoption was moved by Sir Francis Cruise, M.D., seconded by Sir Frederic Falkiner, K.C., and carried. Sir Thornley Stoker moved the election of ten members to the Council, and the motion was adopted. Sister M'Conachy proposed the election of Miss Hampson, Miss Kelly, Miss Lamont, Miss Helen Shuter, and Miss Ramsden. This was seconded by Sister Phillips and carried.

The President of the College, in acknowledging the vote of thanks accorded to him, referred to the assistance given the medical profession by skilled and devoted nurses, to whom many of the modern triumphs were in no small measure due. He should like to see the nursing profession placed on a good basis, and he trusted that the means of doing so would be devised before long.

Legal Matters.

DAMAGES FOR A HOSPITAL MATRON.

The case to which we have already alluded, in which Miss Audrey Thurston, Matron of the Rakesmore Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness, brought an action at the Liverpool Assizes against Mr. John Charles, J.P., a member of the Barrow-in-Furness Council, for wrongful detention of a letter, and for the publication of that letter under such circumstances as to occasion a libel, terminated by a verdict for the plaintiff on the detention of the letter, with £400 damages. The jury found on the question of libel that the alleged libel was privileged, but considered that the privilege was strained to the utmost. Their opinion was that there was no malice. The judge reserved judgment.

A MATTER OF EQUITY.

At Wakefield County Court last week, the adjourned case in which a trained nurse, named Mrs. Julia Mary Woodhead, sued a Wakefield butcher, came before Judge Greenhow, who wanted more evidence as to the custom in the profession. The claim was for £3 4s., balance alleged to be due for plaintiff holding herself in readiness to attend upon defendant's wife. The defence was that payment should only start from the time the nurse actually entered upon her duties. Evidence, however, was called by the plaintiff to prove that it was customary to pay nurses when they had been engaged to keep themselves in readiness, and his Honour gave judgment for plaintiff.

Nursing Echoes.

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Quite an unusual number of changes in the *personnel* of hospitals has taken place of late, and now, by the resignation of Miss Pauline Peter, the much-respected General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, another important post in the nursing world becomes vacant.

Miss Peter has had a long and honourable nursing career, and will be greatly missed from her present influential position, and it is to be hoped that she may be succeeded by a woman of equal breadth of professional feeling, as this means much to the great army of Queen's Nurses, who naturally look to their head officers for a lead in matters professional. Although the Council of the Q.V.J.N.I. is divided on the question of legal status for trained nurses, Miss Peter is a convinced Registrationist, and has therefore given her support to the movement for bettering the educational curriculum, and safeguarding the interests of trained nurses and the public by State control of nursing as a whole. Released from the arduous duties of her present post, we may hope Miss Peter will have more time to give to the profession generally. Her influence will always carry weight.

Many changes in the organisation of the Nursing Department are contemplated at the Samaritan Free Hospital, and Miss Butler, the popular Matron, has resigned after twenty years' work, much to the regret of her fellow workers. Miss Butler well deserves a rest, and, like so many London Matrons who tire of rush and noise, is looking forward eagerly to that "dear little cottage in the country," which somehow appears to one's ecstatic imagination perennially rose clad and sunny.

One of the items on the Agenda for the General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses is:—"The President will lay before the League a scheme of post-graduate Lectures on Bacteriology." We predict a very warm welcome for the scheme.

In the *League Journal* of the Royal South Hants Nurses' League, Miss Mollett says:—"I think it is more than a pity when nurses think that matrimony should sever them from association with their old nursing companions and nursing ties. Your life only becomes more narrow and empty as you go on,

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