

securing the interest and co-operation of trained nurses in furthering the cause which they are promoting, was held on Thursday in last week at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. The chair was taken by Mrs. Temple, and Sir Victor Horsley spoke on the Use of Alcohol and Drugs in Physical and Mental Strain. He said that the strongest argument in favour of Temperance was that the medical profession are discontinuing the use of alcohol as a drug and discouraging it as a household remedy. He recommended the administration of hot water or hot milk in cases of faintness rather than the usual resort to brandy, and urged as a scientific fact that alcohol taken even in small quantities diminishes muscular and mental power, and that it is an evil economically, hygienically, and medically. He exhibited some interesting charts showing the gradual decline in the use of alcohol and the corresponding increase in the consumption of milk. In the London Hospitals in 1862 £8,000 was spent in alcohol and £2,000 in milk; in 1902 the figures were exactly reversed.

The Rev. E. F. Russell, Chaplain of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses, dealt with the moral aspect of the question, and emphasised the danger of the self-administration of drugs by nurses.

The Report of the Council of the Liverpool Queen Victoria District Nursing Association shows that the work of the Association is steadily increasing as the nurses become better known and there is a greater demand for their services. The total number of cases nursed in 1905 was 8,394, the total staff numbering five Matrons and fifty nurses. The work in the elementary schools is greatly developing and the Committee have received pressing applications for the services of the nurses from a number of schools, but the state of the funds of the Association does not at present justify the extension of this work. Miss Darrah, of the Jubilee Institute, who has inspected the work of the nurses, has reported that it is very satisfactory.

We regret that the Council of the Association makes it *compulsory* for each nurse to take out a policy in the Royal National Fund for Nurses. Thrift is good, but nurses in common with other workers have surely the right to determine in what way they shall invest their savings, and compulsion in regard to any special insurance society savours more of the autocracy of Eastern Europe than of the freedom of action on which British subjects are wont to pride themselves.

The work of the Carlisle District Nursing Association, 5, Chiswick Street, Carlisle, the object of which is to provide fully-trained nurses to attend the sick poor in their own homes free of charge, has so increased that a fifth nurse has now been engaged. A practical proof of the way in which the nurses' work is valued is afforded by the fact that over £30 was received last year in voluntary donations from the patients attended. The Committee have recorded their warm appreciation of the excellent work of the Matron, Miss Little, and say that the nurses have won grateful thanks from many a suffering patient.

The Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, under the able management of Dr. Robertson, has a deservedly high reputation as to the nursing arrangements, the secret of which, no doubt, is that Dr. Robertson believes in the wisdom of placing in the higher posts nurses who have had not only special mental but also general training. That this policy redounds not only to the welfare of the patients, but also to the credit of the institution, is evident from the summary of the appointments recently gained by Assistant Matrons in the asylum which is published in the *Passing Hour*, the magazine and chronicle of the asylum:—

"Miss Thyne, our Senior Assistant Matron, has been appointed Matron of the Midlothian and Peebles Asylum at Rosslynlee. She has been nearly two years at S.D.A., and had received her general training at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Miss Fraser, next in seniority to Miss Thyne, has been appointed Matron of the Coton Hill Private Asylum, near Stafford, in succession to Miss Craig, also a former Assistant Matron at Larbert. Miss Fraser had received her general training at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. These two appointments are the fourteenth and fifteenth promotions of members of the upper nursing staff to important positions, mostly in asylums, since Dr. Robertson became Medical Superintendent of this asylum seven years ago. These two ladies were exceedingly capable and efficient Assistant Matrons, and deserved their success, both being ideally qualified for their respective new posts. We wish them both heartily God-speed and a happy future.

"Miss Lewsey, another of our Assistant Matrons, who had come all the way from London to join the staff here, left to become Sister at the Upton Fever Hospital. Like the swallows, she has gone to the south to seek a warmer clime.

"The staff of Assistant Matrons now includes Miss Fielding (now senior), Miss J. Anderson,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)