

Queen's Nurses, who were the pioneers in demonstrating the usefulness of the work, could most suitably be employed in this connection if local educational authorities would subsidise them with an adequate grant. The monotony of the school work was not felt when combined with general district nursing.

We are glad to notice that the nurses at the North Riding Infirmary, Middlesbrough-on-Tees, are in future to have a whole day off duty once a fortnight instead of once a month as heretofore. This course was recommended by the House Committee, after the whole of the nursing staff had individually tendered evidence before them, and adopted by the Governors at their Annual Meeting. The probationers also are to come off duty half an hour earlier than at present.

A woman, dressed as a nurse, called at the Croydon hospital, on Tuesday, and as the officials thought she was a friend of some members of the staff she had free access to the various apartments. When she left the Matron and nurses missed purses, watches, rings, and umbrellas. In many hospitals there is a good deal of laxity as to the way in which visitors are permitted, and indeed expected, to wander about till they find the official whom they desire to see, and the same thing applies to Nurses' Homes. It is a point on which much more strictness is needed, and, we may add, more energy on the part of the average hospital porter, who prefers to indicate the direction of the Matron's office, for instance, by a nod rather than to lead the way there.

After holding office for nearly 20 years, Mrs. Nesbit, Matron Superintendent of the General Hospital, Madras, has retired from the Government service, with a record of admirable work well done. The hospital was in a transition stage, when she took up the appointment and ably carried out the work of re-organisation. When necessity occasioned it, she did not hesitate to take a strong line, and in the end the results proved the wisdom of her judgment, so that she was held in high repute by the medical staff and others with whom she worked, while nurses who did their work conscientiously always found a friend in her.

Mrs. Nesbit intends to live in Japan, where she has many friends among the Japanese. Her successor as Matron Superintendent of the General Hospital, Madras, is Miss Johnston.

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

We regret to report the death of Mr. Thomas Henry Wakley, F.R.C.S., Eng., joint Editor of the *Lancet*, who died last Friday at his residence, 5, Queen's Gate, Hyde Park, at the age of 86. He was the son of the celebrated man who founded the *Lancet*, and to whom the medical profession owes a deep debt of gratitude, as he fought valiantly with his pen (and, it is said, also with his sword in duelling days) for the organisation of the profession of medicine, and its Registration Bill. Incidentally, he of course attacked the hydra-headed abuses extant in our hospitals eighty years ago.

The Samaritan funds attached to hospitals do a very good work; for instance, that attached to St. Thomas's Hospital has been in existence 54 years. Last year 919 patients were sent to convalescent homes, and surgical and optical appliances were supplied to 415 in-patients and 373 out-patients. The income of the fund was £2,070, and patients' contributions amounted to £305. The expenditure was £1,960. The consumptive cases at sanatoria accounted for £200, each patient costing from 21s. to 30s. a week. Many of the hip and spine cases required very long treatment, and two children thus afflicted have been at Margate over a year, at an expense of £55. Mr. Peter Reid continues to allow the use of 30 beds at his convalescent home at Swanley, and 432 patients went there. The Ladies' Guild supplied 1,342 garments for necessitous patients.

In the April number of *The Business Man's Magazine* there appears an amusing article, entitled "The Polite Hospital Secretary's Letter Guide," by "C.C.," giving samples of the correspondence that official receives, and his replies to the various letters. There is the irate Annual Subscriber, who writes to say that six months previously she requested that her address should be removed forthwith from the annual report of the hospital, and to enquire peremptorily why this has not been done. Then a rival and newly-appointed hospital secretary, who finds that the polite secretary's hospital has a subscription list nearly four times as large as his own, writes for a copy of the Subscribers' List. There is the letter from the mother of a former patient, whose sailor boy has brought home a parrot "as can swear as nigh bad as he hisself can." She requests to be allowed to "bring the parrett rhaund to the orspital for to be put in your sitting-room wot the dere gentle lidy nurses uses of, so as to eradikite the awful swareing of the pure parrett wot knows no more than wot he is saying his rite." To these and many more letters the polite secretary's judicious and diplomatic replies afford amusing reading, and incidentally prove the value of self-restraint and courtesy in a public official.

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