

Miss Violetta Thurstan on April 20th addressed a crowded meeting at Llangollen, and gave an account of her experiences in Belgium and Poland. Her address was listened to with deep attention, and, we imagine, must have stimulated interest in her book, "Field Hospital and Flying Column," just published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's, and which is already attracting favourable notice.

Far-reaching powers are given by the Local Government Board to local sanitary authorities to reduce the illness from measles and whooping-cough and to lower the present high mortality rate from these two diseases, which are erroneously thought to be of no consequence. From time to time various local authorities have pleaded for the notification of these diseases, which are especially infectious. At last Whitehall responds, and not only empowers local authorities to authorise compulsory notification, but also to arrange, either by direct municipal action or by contract, for the medical and nursing treatment of such cases. This is a sweeping measure of public health reform, and is especially remarkable at a time when the nation is engaged in a European war.

Lady Harrowby, in moving the adoption of the report at the annual meeting of the Staffordshire Nursing Association, held at the County Council Buildings, Stafford, recently, expressed a hope that the Tipton Training Home would have a long life of usefulness. She hoped that use would be made of the district nurses in connection with the protection of infant life and the care and education of mothers, because she had been informed that if the nursing associations did not take up the work it would be given to other people. That would be nothing short of a national disaster, because she felt strongly that people did not take kindly to a variety of inspectors going to their homes, but the district nurses, she believed, would be kindly received and their advice accepted, and she hoped that with the cordial co-operation of the County Council the association would be able to evolve some scheme for the benefit of the mothers and babies. She felt that the district nurses were the best persons to undertake the work, and she appealed to the public of Staffordshire to aid the association in this great undertaking by liberally subscribing to the funds. Certificates for long service were presented by Lady Harrowby to Nurse Wilkes and Nurse Young.

At a meeting of the Halifax Board of Guardians when the appointment of probationary nurses was under discussion, the Clerk (Mr. A. T. Longbotham) said that about fifteen years ago the Guardians established a very definite rule that probationers should be selected only from persons resident outside the union. The sole reason for that was disciplinary. Girls training in their own town were not as amenable to the necessary discipline as probationers who were strangers to the district.

We commend this arrangement, which is certainly in the interests of discipline.

So far five deaths have occurred as a result of the explosion at Lerwick. The injured number about twenty, two of whom are in a precarious condition. The killed were terribly mangled. Two local doctors and nurses rendered heroic service, as they always do in times of emergency and stress.

It is miraculous that the death-roll is not heavier judging by the area over which the debris has been scattered, and the force with which wood and iron have been driven into the walls and dykes. Near the scene of the explosion telegraph and telephone wires were blown to pieces.

POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

Miss Mollett's suggestion of including in the Annual Report of the Matrons' Council a short summary of the work members are doing in connection with the war was a very happy one, and at the Quarterly Meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association on April 24th, it was decided to make a Roll of such work done by its members.

The meeting, at which Miss Barton presided, was held, by kind invitation of Miss Cockrell, at the St. Marylebone Infirmary, and the members had been asked to send accounts of any special work they were doing in connection with the war. Most interesting letters were read from absent members, some in charge of hospitals on active service, and others doing special war work at home.

Miss Cockrell gave a most interesting account of her time as Matron at the Alexandra Palace with the Belgian Refugees. Miss Myles described the transformation of the Infirmary at Brighton into a hospital for the Indian wounded, and Miss Walker the nursing of the soldiers in a Territorial Hospital. Other members also spoke.

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