

saying: "We are carrying on the work as enthusiastically as ever. Greetings."

The gathering was representative of Students of all periods since the opening, and numbered 86. Many old friends met and talked over present and past work. The question was raised as to whether a quarterly magazine could be run, so that past Students could be kept more closely in touch with the work: all present were warmly in favour of the scheme.

The Hospital Visiting Committee of the St. Marylebone Board of Guardians recommended at a recent meeting that, subject to the consent of the Minister of Health, the extension of the Nurses' Home at the St. Marylebone Hospital, Notting Hill, be proceeded with. Considerable discussion followed, and Mr. Dean, in accordance with notice, moved that, inasmuch as expenditure of at least £12,000 was contemplated, in building an addition to the Nurses' Home at the Hospital, that a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider the advisability of removing the Marylebone Hospital from Notting Hill into Marylebone, and thus afford greater facilities and comfort for the sick poor of Marylebone, and at the same time effect great saving in administrative costs.

Mr. Dean argued that the Board would be doing a wrong thing in extending the Hospital, inasmuch as in that institution, certified for 744, there were only at the last return 311 Marylebone patients. In the Home, registered for 1,758, there were only 584 Marylebone people. He suggested that they should seriously consider bringing the two institutions together.

The recommendation of the Hospital Visiting Committee was carried, by 12 votes to 9. Mr. Dean's motion for the appointment of a Committee to consider the question of removal was also carried.

For a long time past there have been frequent resignations of nurses at Chapel-en-le-Frith Workhouse, scarcely a month passing without changes in the nursing staff. Now the head nurse at the Infirmary has resigned—the second time in two months.

We are inclined to sympathise with the attitude of *haut-en-bas* assumed by this highly qualified nurse. No doubt provocation has been acute.

The head nurse declared to a representative of the local press that her resignation had nothing to do with the recent controversy. She added: "The head nurse holds a certificate of general training from a good training school, a fever certificate from a well-known city hospital, the diploma of the Central Midwives' Board, and a 15 years' unblemished career. She is registered on the General Nursing Council State Register and the Supplementary Fever Register, and can snap her fingers at such remarks as those passed at the last Board meeting.

"Usually of a discerning turn of mind, this time she has been taken in. She thought the days of Bumbledom had passed with Dickens, but has discovered to her sorrow such is not the case.

"She hopes the public will not judge her predecessors too harshly, as the odds must have been overwhelming.

"Whether more will be heard of the subject at the next Board meeting or not is a matter of absolute indifference to her."

The *Lancet* of January 12th, in a leading article, refers to a letter previously published in its columns from a writer who complained that the employment of trained nurses was very embarrassing to small householders, and indicated that there were many illnesses where the patient only needed "someone to wash me, to bring me my food, to make my bed, and, in fact, to attend to my physical needs." Our contemporary is of opinion that those who are in the situation of their correspondent really want "a domestic servant with some knowledge of nursing routine, such as might be picked up by a brief sojourn at a cottage hospital. In three months a lady's maid, an intelligent parlourmaid, or a housemaid might be given enough training to make her a valuable adjuvant to the patient and the doctor in case of invalidism. . . . If any organised body could produce the requisite article it would probably be one of the Cottage Nurses' Associations. They might, if there was a demand, supply the kind of nurse required, or even, as in other industries, create the demand by offering the supply."

But why should "a lady's maid, or an intelligent parlourmaid," both highly skilled workers—worth their weight in gold—cease performing their own invaluable duties to pick up a scrap of nursing and attend to the physical needs of invalids? And why should such workers be given the title "nurse"? We regret to see the *Lancet* recommending the making of more inefficient nurses. There are far too many already. If patients prefer the care of domestic workers let them employ them, but to encourage more "handy women" to pose as trained nurses is to discourage still further suitable women from training, and they are scarce enough as it is. Trained visiting nurses can supply the need.

Perhaps the *Lancet* would approve of the action taken by the Carnarvon County Council on January 11th, when, upon the recommendation of its Health Committee, it adopted a scheme for a fortnight's special training for village nurses in school and health work, to be given at Bangor. We should think the announcement a misprint did we not know the intensive training considered sufficient by various County Councils for attendance on the poor.

As far as space permits THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will keep its readers in touch with the progress of Nursing Education, Teaching, and Training; with the elements of Medical Progress, the National Health, the Work of the Nurses' Organisations (National and International), the Hospital World, Women's Work Outside the Gates, and What to Read. The Editor hopes that the Correspondence Columns will in the future, as in the past, be widely used for the expression of Nursing Opinion. Should THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING receive the support it aims to deserve, its future should be one of success and expansion. This result is entirely in the hands of the Nurses. Let them continue to support a professional organ in the press, and its value may be inestimable.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)