

A Matron and Nursing Staff, members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, proceeded to China last week with the personnel and equipment of a General Hospital.

At the recent Examinations of the University of Leeds the following ladies (nine in number) gained the Diploma in Nursing:—

Miss Kathleen Billequez (at present Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Doncaster), Miss Gwendoline Burns, Miss Ellen Crawley, Miss Florence E. Kaye, Miss Elizabeth Luke, Miss Charlotte E. Nelson, and Miss Bessie Whitehead. All these ladies were trained at the Leeds General Infirmary, and Miss Kaye, Miss Luke, Miss Nelson at present hold the position of Sister in that Institution. Miss Bertha Lord (trained at the Royal Infirmary, Halifax), and Miss Hilda Tither (trained at the Royal Southern Infirmary, Liverpool), complete the number of those who gained this coveted distinction.

A very impressive and beautiful service was held in the Liverpool Cathedral on January 8th at Evensong, 5 p.m., at which the Lord Bishop officiated. This special service included the offices of Installation, Collation and Inauguration, followed by the Dedication of gifts, including the movable Communion Rails for the War Memorial Chapel (given by the Military Nurses' Memorial Fund). Special seats were reserved in the chancel for representatives of the Imperial Military Nursing Services. Miss Osborne, Principal Matron, War Office, and Miss Allen, Matron, Military Hospital, York, represented the Matron-in-Chief and Q.A.I.M.N.S., and the representatives of the Matron-in-Chief and T.A.N.S., were Miss Jones, Matron, Liverpool Infirmary (Principal Matron, T.A.N.S.), and Miss Dando, Matron, Mill Lane Isolation Hospital, Wallasey, Cheshire (Matron, T.A.N.S., 1st Western General Hospital).

After the Service the Sub-Dean of the Cathedral very kindly conducted the representatives round the Memorial Chapel. The movable Communion rails are of light oak, delicately carved, on similar lines, and in uniformity with the woodwork of the Cathedral, all having been executed by the same workmen. The following inscription is carved on the rails:—

"In memory of the Members of the Imperial Military Nursing Services who gave their lives in the Great War."

The Dean emphasised the advantage of being able to use the rails in other parts of the building for special services. Those representatives who were fortunate enough to be present considered it a great privilege to have been at this unique and inspiring service.

Miss C. Humphreys, Sister-Tutor, St. Mary's Infirmary, Portsmouth, writes in "The Poor Law Officers' Journal":—

It is a well-known fact that the more the mental faculties become developed, the more the person tries in some way or other to provide for the future; in other words, he becomes far-seeing.

The casual labourer only thinks of a good dinner with a pint of beer and a plug of tobacco; his wife, more often than not, has to do any looking ahead that is possible on his fluctuating pay.

A little higher up in the social scale, the worker tries in

some way or other to insure against ill-health, and endeavours to provide for his children until they can work for themselves; while those higher still in the social scale, with assured incomes, make a point of not only providing for their children while young, but give them the means of a good push-off in the modern scuffle for existence.

The thing all far-seeing people avoid is "blind alley occupations." Happily for us, nursing is not one of these. You can begin at the bottom and travel to the top; no one will say you nay, as far as tradition and possibility go.

There being so many branches of nursing it is possible for you to take up when you have once gained your certificate, the chief thing is to think well before you take your first post.

Don't branch out into a line you do not propose to stick to; although all experience is useful, you will get to the top more quickly if you stick to one kind of hospital—or one kind of public health work, if you prefer that.

If you wish for a good position, take the precaution to notice that most hospitals require three recent testimonials. This means you will have to stay at least a year in each place; so that you cannot travel by aeroplane, so to speak, to any position worth having.

Hospitals have a natural preference for the young, so do not stay 20 years in one position and then expect to get a better one elsewhere; it simply is not done.

If you are not entitled to a pension, you will have to save sufficient capital to provide you with an income in your old age.

Of course, it may be argued that you can only be young once, and money won't be much use to you for enjoyment when old. All very true; but the other side of the argument is that you must choose between providing for yourself, letting someone else provide for you, or make up your mind to retire to the infirmary when the time arrives that you are no longer able to provide for yourself by means of paid work. Nurses, being of independent nature, would probably prefer the first course; but it is just as well to be aware of the fact that no one can have it both ways, however much he may wish to.

Allegations that the night nurses employed in the North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, were overworked were made at a recent inquest on Elizabeth Murray (76), who fell out of bed and received fatal injuries while an assistant nurse was changing the sheets.

Miss Ware, the nurse concerned, told the coroner that recently she had complained six times to the night sister that she could not get assistance, and that she was overworked. She had 22 patients in her ward, and her orders were that if she wanted help she should ask the assistant nurse in the next ward, but on this occasion the other assistant nurse was too busy to help her.

The Medical Superintendent of the institution, said that two or three complaints during the year had been received of similar accidents, but this was a small number considering they had 1,200 patients. He did not think that their nursing staff was inadequate, but steps were being taken to increase it.

The coroner recorded a verdict of "accidental death."

We all know how difficult it is to keep a sufficient staff of highly experienced nurses in Poor Law Hospitals. The training in many such institutions is excellent, and the nurses find no difficulty, when registered, in obtaining promotion in many branches of nursing at home and abroad. We consider it should be a cardinal rule in every hospital that not less than two nurses should be on duty in a ward containing 22 beds. Without over-

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