

—a fine earnest band of women—beautifully neat and nurse-like, no “gilding and veneering” about them.

#### A Nightingale Shrine.

Just off the big Hall we passed into a little room—really a Nightingale Shrine. Here various portraits of Miss Nightingale adorn the walls. There are many mementoes of her—notably her walking stick in a glass case—little things she valued—a grey enamelled mug from the Crimea and the little basket in which it had been carefully kept, books, and other treasures, some hidden away letters and papers, all very touching and evidently held in deep veneration by Matron and Staff—very inspiring and lovely.

Time was passing, so a very bright and charming Sister (who had been to Montreal) whisked us up to Adelaide Ward, gay with balloons of many colours, and there the patients, pranked out in pretty new bed jackets and surrounded with flowers, told us what a really lovely Christmas they had enjoyed. Then we heard a sweet humming, and a band of Nurses, very picturesque in their uniform and scarlet lined capes slowly entered the ward, and from the far end sang to us in sweet high notes “The First Nowell,” “How far it is to Bethlehem,” and “All the night bright Angels sing.”

Then we descended to “Victoria” where just inside the ward, Sir Arthur Stanley, the Treasurer, was holding Court, and with warm handclasps, wishing in his very genial way, Happy New Years to many guests. Here we heard more lovely Carols and admired the beautiful flowers and exquisite little “crib” carried out all in white.

Then a visit to the Chapel to see the very fine “crib” which is annually set out from Christmas to Epiphany—a peep at the Children’s Ward where the fun was quietening down after a wondrous time, and then Miss Gullan, Sister Tutor, was good enough to show us her domain, the well-equipped study room, and the fine Lecture room, where the Probationers receive so much valuable instruction from her. We were much intrigued to see reposing on the floor quite a little wood of baby fir trees, all garlanded in silver trimmings and laden with wee gifts—“mascots” Miss Gullan called them—to be placed on the Staff dinner table next day, when a great annual festival was to be held, and each guests receive from the little tree a “mascot” to bring her good luck during the year—a charming custom.

And then good-bye—taking happy memories away. A very exquisite night, after a glorious day, and so home, over Westminster Bridge, “Old Man River rolling along.”

E. G. F.

The charming picture of the Terrace at St. Thomas’s Hospital appeared in the *Nightingale Fellowship Journal*, and the block is the property of the Medical School, for whose permission to use it we are indebted to the kindness of Miss Lloyd Still.

In founding the Nightingale Fellowship the President writes in the *Journal*: “We would ask each one individually to realise that she is a member and a living part of the School, and that the honour of the School is in the hands of its members for good or for ill. Each carries a lamp, lighted by our great Foundress, but its feeding and steady burning are her own responsibility.”

## THE MENTAL TREATMENT BILL.

Earl Russell’s Mental Treatment Bill has passed its third reading in the House of Lords. It is intitled:—

“An Act to amend the Lunacy Acts, 1890 to 1922, and such of the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1927, as relate to the constitution and organisation of the work of the Board of Control, the exercise of the powers of the Board and the protection of persons putting those Acts into operation.”

It includes some important provisions.

It provides for the reception of voluntary boarders, and for treatment without certification of persons temporarily incapable of volition, under certain safeguards:—

- (i) In an institution provided by a local authority; or
- (ii) In a registered hospital; or
- (iii) In any such other institution, hospital or nursing home as may be approved by the Board of Control for the reception of such temporary patients; or
- (iv) With the consent of the Board of Control, in single care.

Provision is made for the re-organisation of the Board of Control, which it is proposed shall consist of the chairman (who shall be a paid commissioner) and not more than four other commissioners, all of whom shall be paid commissioners.

Of the members of the Board of Control other than the chairman one at least shall be a legal commissioner, one at least shall be a medical commissioner, and one at least shall be a woman.

The members of the Board of Control shall be styled senior commissioners and shall be appointed by His Majesty on the recommendation, as regards the legal commissioners, of the Lord Chancellor and, as respects the other commissioners, on the recommendation of the Minister of Health, and shall hold office during His Majesty’s pleasure.

The Board may make rules prescribing the books and records to be kept in any institution, hospital, nursing-home or house which receives any patient under this Act or any boarder under this Act or any local Act and prescribing in relation to such institutions, hospitals, homes or houses any of the other matters with respect to which rules may be made under subsection (1) of section 338 of the principal Act.

It is also provided that Asylums provided or to be provided under the Lunacy Acts, 1890 to 1922, by any local authority in England shall hereafter be called, and are in this Act referred to as, mental hospitals.

The Bill is Mental Treatment (No. 60) H.L. Price 6d. Obtainable from His Majesty’s Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C., or through any bookseller.

## STATE REGISTRATION OF MENTAL NURSES.

In reply to an application from a mental nurse, who holds the certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, for a position with the Mental Nurses’ Association, Ltd., the manager, Mr. Robert Donaldson, wrote:—

“You mention that you hold the Certificate of the R.M.P.A., but you omit to mention, which is more important, whether you are State registered . . .

“It is most essential that anyone proposing to take up private nursing in their own interest should be State registered, and unless you are, I strongly advise you not to dream of leaving your present post till you have duly qualified to enter your name on the State Register by taking the examination of the General Nursing Council.”

This is wise advice, and Superintendents of other Associations of Mental Nurses might usefully follow Mr. Donaldson’s example and give the same. Only nurses on the State Register are eligible for his Association.

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