

a three years' certificate from a recognised Training School and is on the State Register. Many of the Nurses also hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board.

There have been changes in the Headquarters Staff during 1929. Miss Gillespie left at the end of July, and the Council appointed Miss Irene Hett as Hon. Secretary and General Superintendent. Miss Dunell joined the Secretarial Staff at the end of the year, to help mainly in the Nurse Branch.

The Council states that the present year plunges it into a maze of statistics and book work, owing to a survey of district nursing in London which is being made by the London County Council. Such statistics are most useful when gathered, but few people realise the amount of labour this entails.

There can surely be nothing more alarming than a fire in a mental hospital, such as that which broke out at the Tooting Bec Mental Hospital, a Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospital, on March 31st, last, where there are 2,000 patients, 100 of whom were in the affected building, 38 being on the top floor, where burning pieces of wood fell and set the beds alight. Within a few minutes the patients were marshalled by the nurses out of the ward and on to a bridge which connects the wing within another building, and then they assisted the firemen to drag beds from the burning building. Eye-witnesses say that the Nurses behaved most courageously and attribute the dispatch with which the rescue work was accomplished largely to the organised system of fire drill amongst the staff.

It must have been a terrifying experience, but it is wonderful how Nurses always rise to the occasion at such times and maintain the best traditions of their profession.

The Annual Dinner of what until now has been known as the Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association took place recently at the Hotel Central, Marylebone Road. Earlier in the day it was announced that the arrangements had now been completed for changing the title of the Association, which will in future be known as the Women Public Health Officers' Association. A very large number of Members, including many trained Nurses holding the qualification of health visitor, and their guests, gathered in the large dining-hall of the hotel, and all appeared to be in the best of spirits and to enjoy themselves thoroughly. After a

delightful dinner, the toast of "The King" was proposed by Professor Louise McIlroy, D.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., who took the Chair owing to the illness of Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, J.P., President. The health of "The Acting President" was proposed by Miss A. Sayle, M.B.E., M.A., Chairman of the Association, and other toasts were "The Guests," "The Houses of Parliament," and "The Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association." The guests included the Most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., Professor Winifred Cullis, C.B.E., M.A., W. Allen Daley, Esq., M.D., B.A., B.Sc., Captain G. S. Elliston, M.A., Dr. Graham Little, M.P., Dr. Christine Murrell, and many others.



Dr. ANNA HAMILTON IN 1907.

The theft of handbags in the public streets still continues, and a recent victim has been Dame Sarah Elizabeth Oram, formerly Principal Matron, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, with whom her colleagues will sympathise on this unpleasant experience. She was robbed of her handbag by a man who spoke to her near her home in Aubrey Walk, Notting Hill. The man made his escape in a motor car driven by a companion. The handbag contained only a small sum.

All Nurses who have followed the fine work done by Dr. Anna Hamilton of Bordeaux for the training of Nurses in France, in the best modern traditions, will rejoice to know that the French Government has made public recognition of her work by presenting to the Florence Nightingale Training School for Nurses at Bordeaux, of which she is Director, the sum of 900,000 francs.

It has been Dr. Hamilton's life's work to maintain a Training School for Nurses which shall not only nurse the patients in the hospital which she superintends, but shall send its graduates when trained to organise and take charge of training schools for nurses in other parts of France.

It will be remembered that when the American Nurses Association wished to commemorate their colleagues who gave their lives in the Great War, they decided to present a Memorial School Building to the Florence Nightingale School at Bagatelle near Bordeaux. The Government gift will be used by Dr. Hamilton to improve the school, and the school buildings.

A generation of Nurses has passed since Dr. Hamilton presented her celebrated Thesis on nursing to the medical faculty at Montpellier when going up for her medical degree.

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