

the question. Of the large number of Nurses who apply to us for assistance in gaining employment, we find, so often, when their qualifications are sifted down, that a considerable percentage has only had "experience," not training, or they have a one-year, or a two-year certificate, or—and this is very common—they have chosen the wrong profession and are not suited to Nursing. Now this is a very important point, this question of natural fitness. Of course no one now believes in the heaven-born Nurse. But there is little doubt that, to make a good Nurse, it is necessary to have certain faculties.

The outcome of our experience, then, is this. While we know many Trained Nurses who cannot fill up all their time, and experience much difficulty in getting cases, we do not often come across a "good Nurse" who is for long out of work. And by a good Nurse we mean a thoroughly trained woman with the Nurse faculties, who has been tried and weighed in the balance, and has been found to do her work thoroughly well. But we admit that it is not given to every Nurse to be "a treasure" and to be above the average. And of course the average is in the majority, and unquestionably during the past year or two there has been a great deal of suffering on the part of average Nurses through the overcrowding of our ranks.

*Nursing Notes* says, under the heading of "The Society of Trained Masseuses": "A very enjoyable party was given at the Trained Nurses' Club, by Miss Molony and Miss Grant, on February 8th, to celebrate the first birthday of the Society, on which occasion the successful candidates received their certificates and signed the rules of the Society. There were about fifty guests; all the members of Council were of course present.

A prominent feature on the tea-table was a birthday cake, bearing the words, 'Many Happy Returns,' and other elaborate decorations, and surrounded at its base by a lovely wreath of white flowers. The first slice was cut by Mrs. Palmer (Member of Council) with many good wishes for the prosperity of the Society of Trained Masseuses.

At the general meeting of the Trained Nurses' Club, January 31st, Miss Molony read the report of the Society of Trained Masseuses, when all present expressed great satisfaction at its progress."

THE General Meeting of the Midwives' Institute took place on January 31st, at seven o'clock. There was a large attendance of members.

The President, Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Auditors, and Council were re-elected. There were four vacancies on the Council, and there were three new members elected: Miss Fox, Matron, City of London Lying-in Hospital; Miss Swift, Superintendent, Guy's Hospital Nursing Institution; Miss Warner, Superintendent, South London District Nurses. This leaves one vacancy, and the Council hope the midwife members engaged in practice will nominate a direct representative.

WITH regard to the decision of the Clutton Board of Guardians not to appoint a Trained Nurse, the Ladies' Visiting Committee have drawn up a strong recommendation that a Trained Nurse should be appointed, and have also suggested that comfortable easy chairs should be placed in the Women's Infirmary to add to the comfort of the convalescent.

MR. BIRCHAM, of the Local Government Board, has just delivered a very wholesome homily to the St. Asaph Board of Guardians on their duty towards the sick poor under their charge. "The prompt Nursing of the sick poor," said Mr. Bircham, "would, in many cases, save the lives of the sick, and prevent widows and orphans from being thrown on the Union." This is economy, and stands in marked contrast to the short-sighted policy of the penny-wise-and-pound-foolish members of the Board. Mr. Bircham says he hopes to see Welsh-speaking Nurses appointed throughout Wales. A great many Welshwomen are now being trained as Nurses in London Hospitals, and he thought Welsh Poor Law Unions would be well advised to avail themselves of their services.

AT a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Worcester Infirmary, when the proposed Nurses' Home was discussed, Mr. Hyde, as representing the medical staff, showed himself a true friend of the Nurses when he said:—

"No one felt more deeply than the medical officers how much they owed to the welfare of the Nurses, and it was a matter for regret that there was so much sickness and failing health among them. This state of things was no doubt due, in the majority of cases, to their having to live in the wards of the Hospital, and a great deal of it would be avoided if the Nurses could pass part of their time outside. The committee had done their best to keep the house up, to bring it into as good a sanitary state as possible, but they had not yet thought of the welfare of the Nurses to such an extent as they should like to see. A little had been done by the taking of Grove House, where some of the Nurses lived, but they should like to see the whole of the Nurses able to live, when off duty, outside the walls of the Infirmary."

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