

THE *Age*, Melbourne, says:—

"If it is possible, everyone would be glad if the hours of the Nurses could be cut down to eight hours a day, and the real question at issue is whether such a reduction is possible at the present time. The authorities at the Melbourne Hospital declare that if the eight-hour day is adopted there will be a two-fold increase in the expenditure. In the first case the pay roll will be considerably increased, and, in addition money will be needed for larger accommodation, as the building is taxed to its uttermost at present. If the hours of the Nurses are shortened, and the pay roll and the numbers remain the same as now, the Hospital will not be able to receive as many patients as heretofore, and the sick poor will consequently suffer."

"The probationers at the Hospitals stand in a somewhat different position from that of the Nurses. They are merely learning their professions, and, like all other young persons engaged in that occupation, they must devote more time to their work than will be afterwards required of them. No doubt Miss Gamble or Miss Grieg (the two brilliant young women doctors, whose appointments caused so much excitement a few months ago), now acting as residents at the Melbourne Hospital, devoted 12 hours a day to lectures, clinics, dissection and private study during the years while they were preparing to pass their examinations. Moreover, they had to pay heavy fees and to support themselves during these years, and it is only fair to regard probationers and Nurses from a similar point of view. These and similar questions should be carefully inquired into before any decision is come to, but Mr. Turner is quite right in asking that he should be satisfied on these points before paying over the State contribution to the Hospitals."

From which it may be gathered that future Probationers will surely have to pay, in time or money, for their valuable training. The enormous increased expense of organising our Training Schools upon an eight hours system will lead inevitably to the pupils themselves bearing the extra expense. Many of our Hospitals are so badly supported as it is by the public that they are unable to institute many reforms which are necessary, although the pluck and energy of the majority of Secretaries in prosecuting reforms is to be highly commended.

THE marriage of Sister Albert, of St. Thomas' Hospital, to Mr. Alexander O. M'Kellar, of Wimpole Street, will very shortly take place.

THE *Dublin Evening Telegraph* has the following touching reference to the death of Miss Alice Cahalan:—

"The sad death of Miss Alice Cahalan, Matron of the Fever Hospital, Nenagh, has excited a deep sympathy which extends far beyond the scene of her unselfish labours. Only last October the Nenagh Guardians unanimously elected her Matron of the Fever Hospital, and on Saturday, August 29th, the

sympathetic *cortège* that followed her to the grave paid the last tribute of respect to her worth. For the past four months the Hospital was fairly full of patients. She was untiring in her attention to them. Gentle and self-sacrificing, her sympathy for suffering made her indifferent to her personal well-being. Her last conscious thought was of others. "Dear Sister," she wrote on a half sheet of paper to the nun in charge of the general Infirmary, "I have the fever. Will you see that every precaution is taken that the women who are minding me do not carry the contagion to any other part of the house?" When the end came two working men, whom she had nursed back to health only a few weeks before, asked to be allowed to carry her coffin to the hearse. A profusion of white blooms and delicate fragrant roses were strewed by loving hands on her newly-made grave. Her gentle spirit went forth to meet the Infinite, crowned with the "white flower of a blameless life." She was the daughter of Dr. Michael Cahalan, Nenagh. She went through her course of training in Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, and at the time of her appointment to the Nenagh Hospital she was an inmate of the Nurses' Home attached to Steevens'."

RECENTLY a medical man, addressing a large number of Nurses, spoke specially of how they should regard themselves as belonging, not to a calling, but to a profession, being "thus on an equality with medical men." Pursuing the subject, "And what do we mean by the expression professional life? We mean all occupations in which the idea of rendering a service, or of doing a duty to a fellow being is generally regarded as the first consideration, and the remuneration is, or ought to be, looked upon as a secondary matter. This is *distinctly* the case in the Nursing profession, and the first object of every Nurse should be to render efficient service."

While we agree with him on the pride of a profession, we do not see why, in the Nursing profession *distinctly*, remuneration should be looked upon as a secondary matter. Mercenary motives are to be deprecated in all professions, but there is no more reason for a Nurse to renounce her fees than for a lawyer to refuse remuneration for his advice, or a doctor for his prescription. Why, very few of the clergy even preach without a fee. Certainly they do not do so unless they have a private income.

At an inquest held on Tuesday, to investigate the cause of death of an old woman of eighty-five, some extraordinary statements were made as to the treatment which the deceased had received at a Workhouse Infirmary. Although the doctor admitted to the Coroner that she was not mentally affected, he ordered her to be placed in a padded room kept for lunatics. The jury were of opinion that the case called for investigation from the Local Government Board.

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