

that she herself had to undergo the agony of two operations. "I remain, Sir, yours truly,

"ONE WHO WAS PRESENT."

*Wings*, the organ of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, announces to the Members of The Nurses' Total Abstinence League, that in response to a request made at Bristol it proposes to reserve a corner of *Wings*, to be called the "The Nurses' Corner," for news of the League, and for items that may be of special interest to nurses. The Editor will be glad to receive communications from nurses for this corner.

THE paper read by Miss Honnor Morten upon the "Nursing of the Insane and Epileptic," at the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, at Croydon, was of much interest. From Miss Morten's remarks it may be presumed that she is in favour of some part, at least, of the training of asylum nurses being conducted in a general hospital, a fact which we commend to the notice of the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Apparently Miss Morten is not enamoured with the scheme for the Registration of Asylum Attendants, launched by Dr. Outterson Wood. Presumably, as she is interested in attendants as a class, she considers that they might invest their money at better interest than it is likely to bring in if diverted into the coffers of the impecunious Royal British Nurses' Association. It is difficult indeed to understand what bait can be held out to the asylum attendants which will induce them to defray the debts incurred by the mismanagement of the present officials.

IN the discussion which followed Miss Morten's paper, Dr. Helen Boyle, Miss Clifford, Miss Blanche Piggott, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Bunting and Dr. Agatha Porter took part. Mrs. Fenwick advocated justice to asylum nurses, not by placing them upon a register to which they had no right, but by providing them with an efficient training, and enabling them thus to qualify themselves for admission to the register.

DR. AGATHA PORTER, who spoke with the authority of knowledge, having acted for some time as the resident medical officer in a workhouse infirmary, emphasized the need of a higher standard of training, and a better class of nurses for the male insane patients. The darkest spot in infirmary nursing was, she said, the nursing of the male insane patients. The male attendants were not unfrequently dismissed for roughness, insubordination, and drunkenness. Indeed, so difficult was it to get decent, respectable men to act as attendants that she had on several occasions been compelled to move insane patients into the general wards in order to ensure the regular administration of

medicines, and the consumption of brandy by the patient, not the nurse. Comment upon this condition of affairs is needless.

THE one point upon which the nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association seem to be unanimous, is that they do not desire, under present conditions, the admission of asylum attendants to their register. We desire, however, to remind them that the scheme is not dropped, and should the proposed new bye-laws come into operation, it will inevitably be carried out, with the result that fully trained nurses will cease to register their qualifications, and many well-trained nurses, who are already registered, will undoubtedly withdraw their names from a register which has ceased to be of professional value.

AT a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association, held at the house of Lady Wantage, on Wednesday, October 13th, the following resolutions were passed. The first resolution, moved by the Hon. Mrs. J. G. Talbot, and seconded by Mrs. Bonham-Carter, was—

"That the Executive Committee, after long and careful consideration, is of opinion that the time has arrived when the work of the Association must of necessity cease, for the following reasons:—

"The impossibility of adequately meeting, by private effort alone, the demand for trained nurses in Poor Law Infirmarys, under the prevailing conditions, viz.: (a) inadequate financial support to meet the expenses of training; (b) lack of suitable candidates for training; (c) the anomalous position of trained Nurses in country workhouses. The Committee consider that steps should be taken to urge upon the Local Government Board that the whole question of nursing in Poor Law Infirmarys should be undertaken by a State Department, or should be the subject of a departmental inquiry."

The second resolution, moved by Miss Louisa Twining, and seconded by Mrs. A. C. Powell, ran as follows:—

"That a meeting should be called in order that the views of the Executive Committee should be laid before the General Committee and the Subscribers."

THE appended article appeared in the *Evening News* from the pen of an occasional contributor who is at present an inmate of one of the great London Hospitals:—

"There is a brilliant sketch in French literature entitled 'Le dernier jour d'un Condamné,' which has a fascinating interest. It recurs to my mind as I lie here in hospital awaiting the summons to the operating room, where I am to undergo a perilous experience *in corpore vilo*.

"It is nothing less than the excision of the greater portion of my tongue. Now, although we are told in Scripture that the tongue is an unruly member, and if it offends to cut it out, yet no one can contemplate the after effect of such a radical measure with equanimity, least of all one such as I, who incline to a Conservative policy, especially in my own person.

"But the alternative which is presented to me is more

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