

relieved the patient's family of the constant care of watching, and saved the patient from the knowledge that he was being watched, which often led him to behave at his very worst when in the presence of those who loved him best. She strongly advocated the colony system, and said when they had attained the ideal colony, and the ideal attendant, who would be trained in it, the dread of parting with a loved one would disappear.

DISCUSSION.

A full discussion of the subject followed. One delegate, who said that she was a Poor Law Guardian, expressed the conviction that the workhouse was the very worst place for the epileptic, especially the epileptic child. On this point there appeared to be a general consensus of opinion, and the desirability of special institutions for such cases was fully admitted.

In the discussion on the care and education of the feeble-minded, Mrs. Burgwin, organiser of special classes for defective children under the London School Board, urged the classification of such cases according to the degree of feeble-mindedness, also detention in the special classes until the age of sixteen. She uttered one word of warning. Laundry work is supposed to be eminently suitable employment for feeble-minded girls, and in trying to find work for such there was a tendency, she thought, to put them somewhat indiscriminately into laundries. But the laundress, like the poet, is born, not made. Not every woman will take to laundry work, and the fret of an uncongenial employment acts upon the irritable nature of the feeble-minded, in which respect they resemble epileptics, making them worse.

Miss Clive Bayley showed a beautiful specimen of embroidery worked by a feeble-minded girl, proving that this pitiable class is capable of doing well certain kinds of work.

Another delegate moved, "That this Conference requests its Council to call a sub-committee of medical women to consider the causes of epilepsy, and to classify them, and to report to the next meeting."

Some Norfolk and Norwich ladies who are anxious to establish a home for the feeble minded in the county, asked for suggestions as to the best methods of doing so.

Miss Moseley asked if epilepsy were curable.

Miss Gibson, in replying to the various points raised in the discussion, said a well trained attendant would soon be able to distinguish between real attacks and simulated attacks. As to the causes of epilepsy that was a very difficult question, and they must be content to leave it in the hands of the medical men and women. She had been asked whether epilepsy could be cured. Until she came to Norwich she should have said not, but since she had been there she had heard of two or three cases which were said to have been cured. But no one could say an epileptic was really cured until death, for there was no guarantee that the epilepsy might not return. However, she was quite certain that it could be greatly relieved, and many children could be very much benefitted if they were taken in hand when young.

The President, in closing the discussion, in which a large number took part, said she felt there was still an appetite for the consideration of this most interesting subject.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

MISS MARY FRANCES MAY has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Grosvenor Hospital for Women and Children, Vincent Square. Miss May was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and since October, 1897, has held the position of Staff Nurse in that institution.

MISS A. BELLAMY, until recently Matron of the Fever Hospital, Stockton-on-Tees, has been appointed Matron of the Marland Hospital, Rochdale.

MISS KATE HEADFORD, at present Night Superintendent at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, has been appointed Matron at the Convalescent Home of that institution at East Finchley.

MISS C. GRAHAM KNIGHT, who was trained at the London Hospital, and who subsequently held the position of Ward Sister at the Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich, has been appointed Matron at the Branch Hospital at the Royal Victoria and Albert Docks.

MISS ANNABEL L. IRVINE has been appointed Matron of the Dundee Royal Asylum. Miss Irvine received her training at the Glasgow Western Infirmary, where she afterwards acted as Sister. She subsequently gained asylum experience as staff nurse at the Perth District Asylum, Murthly.

NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

MISS LUCY BINNS has been appointed Night Superintendent at the Royal Infirmary, Derby. Miss Binns was trained for three years at the Leeds Infirmary, and for fourteen months has held the position of Theatre Sister in that institution.

SISTERS.

MISS MATILDA BROWN has been appointed Sister of a Children's Ward at the National Orthopædic Hospital, Great Portland Street. Miss Brown was trained and certificated at the General Hospital, Bristol, and subsequently held the position, for two years, of Charge Nurse at the South Western Fever Hospital. For the last four years she has been on the staff of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, during which time she has worked as nurse in the hospital at Zanzibar, and Charge Nurse at Magila, a Station on the Mainland.

MISS BERTHA KAY COLLIS, who received her training at the Bridgewater Infirmary, and who subsequently acted as staff nurse at the Oldham Infirmary, has been appointed Sister of the male wards in that institution.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)