

The Registered Nurses' Society.

MISS MARIAN EDWARDES has been appointed Assistant Secretary to the Registered Nurses' Society as successor to the late Miss Marie Gibson.

Miss Edwardes has for some months past discharged the duties of this position, and the Society is to be congratulated upon having secured the services of a lady who is so suited to fulfil the office with credit.

For the past year, Miss Edwardes has been busy helping Mrs. Wynford-Philipps to compile and edit the "Dictionary of Employments Open to Women," a work lately reviewed in these columns, and published by the Women's Institute. Miss Edwardes gained golden opinions for the marked ability with which she accomplished this very difficult task, requiring, as it did, immense power of application, accuracy, and literary taste.

Appointments.

MATRON.

MISS A. H. MARRIOTT has been appointed Matron of the Midland Eye Hospital, Birmingham. Miss Marriott received her training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and subsequently acted for three years as Sister of Medical Wards at the General Hospital, Birmingham. In August, 1897, she was appointed Assistant Matron at the new General Hospital out of eighty-four candidates, and her appointment was a very popular one in the institution.

MISS ANNIE WETHERELL has been appointed Matron of the Albert Infirmary, Winsford, Cheshire. Miss Wetherell received her training at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, after which she acted for two years and a-half as Staff Nurse at the Marylebone Infirmary. She has also held the positions of Head Nurse at Darlington Hospital, Sister in Charge at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and Home Sister at the Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.

MISS FINCH, who at present holds the position of Matron of the Dundee Royal Asylum, has been appointed Matron of the James Murray Royal Asylum, Perth.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

MISS CLARA HOADLEY has been appointed Assistant Matron of the Preston and County of Lancaster Royal Infirmary. Miss Hoadley received her training at Guy's Hospital, London, and subsequently worked on the private nursing staff of that institution. For the last two years she has held the appointment of Matron at the hospital, Goole.

Legal Matters.

"ONLY AN EXTRA CURL."

On Friday last, at the Assize Courts, Kingston, Mr. A. Braxton Hicks, the Mid-Surrey Coroner, resumed, his inquiry with reference to the death of William John Mackey, aged thirty-two years, who died at the Tolworth Isolation Hospital, on October 31st, it was alleged, from the effects of an overdose of opium.

Mrs. Sophia Mackey, the widow, stated that her husband, who was a turner, was a strong, robust man until a month ago, when he had influenza, which developed into typhoid. He was removed to the Infectious Hospital, whither he was taken on October 27th. Four days later she was informed of his death.

Harriet Homewood, Matron at the hospital, spoke to admitting the deceased, and to receiving written instructions from the medical officer for his treatment. A card for the guidance of the nurse and others was affixed to his bed. On Oct. 30th the doctor added to his written order that the deceased was to have half a drachm of tincture of opium by enema. Witness left the card on the ward table. Nurse Rice told her of certain conditions in the patient, and witness requested her to administer the opium, at the same time handing her a large bottle containing about two ounces. She relied on what the doctor had written for the correctness of the dose, and although it was her duty to personally superintend the administration of all poisons, she allowed the nurse to give the deceased the opium. Nurse Rice had been with her two years, and well understood her duties. The opium was administered at 6.10 p.m., and when the witness visited the patient the same night she found him quite sensible and showing no signs of suffering from the effects of a narcotic. Nurse Rice made a report, timed 6.30 p.m., that she had given the patient three drachms of opium, but witness did not at the time notice the quantity. At three a.m. the next morning, however, the nurse came and informed her that the patient was under the influence of the narcotic, and witness found that he, was insensible, and that his face was of a dusky hue, and his breathing heavy. The nurse gave her to understand that she had misread the symbol "half a drachm" for half an ounce, and that she had given the patient that quantity. Although the signs were very similar, witness would not herself so misunderstand the doctor's writing. She did not think the nurse would have made such a mistake. The patient died the same day.

Phoebe Rice, the nurse referred to, was called. She admitted that she had misread the signs. She had never given such an enema before, she said, and had had very little experience with

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