

At a meeting of the Stratford-on-Avon Rural District Rural Council, held last week, it was stated, with regard to the charges made against the nursing and management at the infectious hospital, the Joint Hospital Committee considered that while there certainly was evidence that some children left the hospital in a dirty state, after hearing the evidence, and especially that given by Miss Moseley, the Superintendent of the Nursing Home, they were of opinion that their condition was due to the hospital being understaffed. They have, therefore, decided to add two additional bedrooms, a nurses' day-room, and a porters' lodge. Considerable discussion ensued over the amount assigned for this purpose, the minutes stating that this was £500, and members of the Committee asserting that the minutes were cooked.

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THE following details are reported concerning the illness of Sister Murphy, whose death from plague, at Belgaum, we recently reported. She died, after five days' illness, from pneumonic plague. For some weeks she had been in ill-health, and the work at the civil hospital was very hard. It is stated that there were 90 patients under the care of two nurses, and rather than throw any extra work on her already hard-worked colleague, she continued on duty, notwithstanding her indisposition. She had not been inoculated. The circumstances are the sadder as the Sister had nearly completed two years' plague duty and was shortly returning home to be married.

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NURSES in this country will be grateful that Sister Murphy upheld the honour of her profession, and died at the post of duty, but her death should bring home to the authorities the necessity for largely increasing the staff of plague nurses in India, if, as is stated, the proportion of patients to each nurse is anything approaching the number mentioned. In a non-infectious hospital at home, working under sanitary conditions, no nurse who was required to take charge of 90 patients could either do her duty by them, or be expected to keep well under the strain. Even if we assume that the patients had no night nurse, and that both nurses were on duty in the day time, with 45 patients each, the number is far too large. It is the duty of the Government of India to provide skilled nurses for the sufferers from plague, but it is equally its duty to see that the staff is adequate, and that the nurses are not overworked. Emergencies there must always be in a country where the work comes in rushes and the supply of nurses is limited, but the reason for sending out a liberal supply of nurses is, therefore, all the stronger.

The Hospital World.

THE YORK COUNTY HOSPITAL.

THOSE of us who know the lovely old city of York may have visited its County Hospital, a comfortable-looking, red brick building, reminiscent of the Georges, with its square front and many-eyed, white-framed windows, an institution which, we can well imagine, is a "dear old hospital" to all those ministering to the sick within its walls, but which, from the point of view of modern science, like many another noble institution built in the past, is capable of structural improvement.

As we never visit a city without asking permission to inspect its hospitals, we naturally found ourselves, one day last week, in the vestibule of the York County Hospital, hoping to renew an acquaintance with its amiable Matron, and visit with her the new Children's Ward, which was opened with so much *eclat*, a few days previously, by Mrs. Thynne, in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, the foundation-stone of which was laid by the Duke of Cambridge in 1897.

In the regrettable absence of Miss Gwyn, we were shown the lovely new ward by a most charming substitute—a little, Scotch lady, Ward Sister of the new wing—who was as pleased to "trot out" all its perfections as we were to see them. And here just one word on the much-discussed subject of hospital manners. How advantageous to an institution it must be that strangers should be met in a courteous manner by its officials, and not patronised or "snuffed out" as the custom was in many a hospital but recently. Anyway, we can imagine the proverbial somewhat diffident and shabby millionaire inspecting the York County Hospital, in company with bright, little Sister Victoria, and straightway returning to his country house and writing a very substantial cheque for the benefit of the institution. We know for a fact that one of London's special hospitals lost £10,000 by the manner in which the wife of a prospective donor was received by a Ward Sister.

BUT we digress. The new Children's Ward at York is on the south side of the main building, and is approached from the ground floor of the corridor which connects it with the Watt wing. It comprises a ward 70 ft. long by 24 ft. wide—a bright and cheerful room, providing accommodation for eighteen cots, an isolated ward for three cots, a large day room, a ward kitchen, a

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