

minimum qualification of education should be laid down for all nurses, and that those who desire to take up special branches should take out a course of special instruction in these before they are eligible for the higher posts. We cannot consider the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Society a satisfactory guarantee of a nurse's efficiency, because it appears to us that this body examines and certifies to proficiency in practical knowledge of subjects in which the candidates have had no practical experience, and there is no need to point out to nurses that theory and practice should go hand in hand.

In this month's *Trained Nurse*, Miss Sarah Bolton has something worth saying about "The Care of the Insane, from a Trained Nurse's Standpoint." Her expression of opinion as an experienced practical nurse, following on that given above is very noteworthy. Her conclusion is that the hospitals for the insane would be greatly benefited if they employed more trained nurses.

"The care of the insane has become a very important subject. At one time the treatment and care of the insane was enveloped in a sort of mystery. It is no longer so with enlightened people. There are no cells and darkened rooms in our modern hospitals."

"It requires time and an intimate association with the insane to make a careful study of their manner and conduct, to be able to intelligently guide, direct, and control them. An attendant should first learn her patient and avoid telling her to do anything that she will likely meet with resistance. Nevertheless, whatever she tells her patient to do, she must firmly and calmly insist upon it being done. If she fails once or twice she loses her power of control. The position is a trying one, the attendant is so often misrepresented, the patient thinking she is her worst enemy."

"Occasionally we meet with some few that fully realise and appreciate all that is done for them. What is more pleasing to one who has nursed the sick than an expression and feeling of appreciation? It encourages us to toil on, and be willing to do more and more to alleviate suffering and add to bodily comfort."

"I think the hospitals for the insane would be greatly benefited if they employed more trained nurses, especially in the wards for the sick and the epileptics. It requires a close observer to detect the symptoms of disease among the insane. Who is better qualified to do this than the trained nurse? If the State institutions are too economical to employ trained nurses, the next best thing would be to give a post-graduate course of six or four months. This would be a very beneficial course for any nurse to take after her general hospital training. It teaches a nurse the using of good judgment and ennobling influences. The trained nurse who gives her time and care to the insane makes as great, if not a greater, sacrifice than the missionary who goes to the foreign field to teach the heathen."

Legal Matters.

A NURSE'S BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

At the Brecon Assizes, the hearing of a case for breach of promise, in which Miss Rhoda Elizabeth Loseby, a district nurse, brought an action against the Rev. D. Tyler Davies, pastor of the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, at Bwlch, for £500 damages, lasted three days. After a formal offer of marriage Mr. Davies persuaded the nurse to renounce her faith as a Romanist as this would, he said, be an obstacle in the eyes of his congregation. This Miss Loseby admits she did "as a sham, for the sake of silence," and she did not consider the renunciation, which she signed, binding upon her. The first sign of coldness on the part of the defendant was when he discovered she had not much money. He tried to get back his letters, and the engagement ring, but the plaintiff kept them. She was so incensed with his conduct that she called him a scamp, and that ended their relations. The jury awarded the plaintiff £100 damages.

AN IMPORTANT POINT.

A question which is of importance to nurses was brought forward at an inquiry which was held before the City Coroner at Oxford into the death of a patient, who was nursed by a member of the staff of the Ackland Home. The friends alleged that the death was due to the unskilful administration of an enema by Miss Mary Hall. By desire of the Coroner a post-mortem examination was made, and the opinion of the medical man who performed it was that death was almost absolutely, and certainly primarily, caused by lung trouble. The verdict of the jury was that, "the cause of death was lung disease, and the use of the instrument did not accelerate the death in any way whatever." They further added, "We believe that the instrument was skilfully used." The inquest brought out the responsibility of an institution for the competence of its nurses, and Miss Denniston, Superintendent of the Ackland Home attended to give evidence as to the sufficient training of the nurse.

A BRUTAL ATTENDANT.

At Teddington Police Court an attendant at Normansfield Private Lunatic Asylum, Hampton Wick, was recently fined 40s. for assaulting an inmate of the Asylum by kicking him in the stomach on three occasions, and striking him repeatedly. So long as such brutality can be condoned by the payment of a fine similar cases will occur. Imprisonment with hard labour, without the option of a fine, should, in our opinion, be meted out to all such offenders.

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