

that she did when first she left the school. Nor did the advance cease when peace was proclaimed; it continued till to-day the Japanese nurse receives thirty yen a month, and this for a day of eight hours, and in private work as well as in hospitals. This is progress indeed. The first graduates who became private nurses worked as many hours daily as do ours. But Japan is progressive, and her nurses find no difficulty in managing the matter; they simply say, "My day is eight hours," and this in a manner which, while very sweet and lady-like, leaves no room for discussion.

This question is often asked, "Are the Japanese nurses who are trained in their own schools as well and thoroughly instructed as nurses in schools in other countries?" "Surely they are," is the reply, which we are most happy to give. Not a few of the superintendents of their training-schools have been educated abroad, while those educated in their own schools are probably as well prepared to teach as they. Their surgeons have had every advantage of foreign study. In their operating-rooms will be found all modern appliances, and the technique is as faultless as in our leading hospitals. The gynecologists and obstetricians rank with those of any country. The medical cases are as varied as in our hospitals, and the treatment given is the same.

It will easily be seen that the advantages given the Japanese nurses are in no way inferior to those received by other nurses, and these advantages they have with many less trials than our own nurses. They are not troubled over an eight-hour system, nor have they spent hours in heated discussion over the pay versus the non-pay system. They have not laboured hard and with limited success over a universal curriculum. All these problems were settled for them in advance. They have no knowledge of schools whose nurses are sent out as a means of revenue, nor have they heard of schools organised to provide the best nursing for the patients with the least expense. Their training-schools are educational institutions, organised for their benefit and in which they can receive most excellent instruction and training, while at the same time proving themselves of the greatest service to suffering humanity. These nurses will be found in touch with every advance movement which is in any way connected with their profession. They reach out helping hands in every direction. Their services are sought and fully appreciated and their knowledge respected. They are valued members of society wherever they are to be found. They are ever on the alert, and though quiet and very modest, make steady and sure progress.—*American Journal of Nursing.*

The Passing Bell.

Wide-spread regret will be felt at the unexpected death of Miss Mary Shirley, the much respected Lady Superintendent of the Staffordshire Nurses' Institute, Stoke-on-Trent, which was due to heart failure after an operation. Miss Shirley has held the position of Superintendent of the Staffordshire Nurses' Institute since 1887, and under her direction the Institute has attained a deserved prestige for its high tone and professional proficiency.

Miss Shirley was one of the first members of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and though her many duties did not often permit her to be present at its meetings, she invariably maintained the kindest relations with it, referring professional questions to her colleagues for their advice, and herself furnishing information which she thought would be of use to it. Quite recently Miss Shirley wrote expressing her warm sympathy with the formation of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and sending her application for membership. Her loss will be much felt not only by the nurses on her own staff, but by the nursing world at large, which is the better for her example of devotion to duty, professional integrity, and courteous relations with all with whom she came in contact.

Among the many wreaths at the funeral was one from the Matrons' Council, composed of palms, emblematic of victory, and Marv lilies, and lilies of the valley, speaking of the "white flower of a blameless life."

We learn with much regret of the death of Miss Margaret Falcon, A.N.S.R., at Standerton, South Africa, from enteric fever. Miss Falcon, who received her training at the Carlisle Infirmary, was selected for service in the early days of the war, and has done valuable work throughout. Much sympathy will be felt with her mother, who has also lost a son in South Africa in the service of his country.

We regret to record the death of Miss Catherine McCowan, of Ardnamurchan, Argyllshire, one of the nurses sent out last autumn to the Refugee Camps in South Africa. Miss McCowan died at Springfontein Camp, Orange River Colony, of dysentery, on March 22nd. A correspondent writes:—"I heard from her early in the year, she was full of interest in her work, and was very busy nursing pneumonia and enteric cases." We hope when peace is once again restored that there may be some permanent memorial of those nurses who died at their posts, whether engaged in our own army hospitals or in caring for the wives and children of the enemy in the Concentration Camps.

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