

penses in the recent law suit. This preposterous suggestion would apparently have found supporters could the question have been decided in camera. Thanks however to Dr. Hooper the committee were saved from taking such outrageous action. This gentleman very properly expressed the opinion that if the committee were responsible to any one it was to the injured Miss Martin for discharging her at a moment's notice without proper reason.

At the same meeting Dr. Allen made a verbal application for an increase of salary, but as several members of the committee objected to the chairman's suggestion that this would be an easy way of helping Dr. Allen with his legal expenses, action was deferred so that the subject might be further considered. With regard to the letter of the Medical Defence Union, it was decided to reply that the Committee had no power to apply funds to the purpose asked. That a suggestion that public funds should be expended in indemnifying a medical man, who has been condemned in damages in a court of law for a libellous attack upon a fellow officer, should have been made by the Medical Defence Union would be incredible if we had not the history of the Royal British Nurses' Association behind us.

Surely it is well for working women to take to heart the lessons of this typical case. We have more than once received the suggestion from members of our profession that a Nurses' Defence Union should be inaugurated, and, indeed, after carefully studying every case in which a trained nurse has taken action, or has protected herself by legal advice in a Local Government Board inquiry, we think that the time has come when a Society of Nurses might very well be formed for the purpose of considering definite cases and advising members of the profession thereon when they feel themselves injured and aggrieved. In this age of co-operation the solitary unit is at a hopeless disadvantage.

#### Canadian Nurses for South Africa.

Five Canadian nurses are leaving shortly for the Cape, as Mr. Chamberlain has cabled to the Earl of Minto, the Governor-General of Canada, that the offer of their services for general work in South Africa is gratefully accepted. They will probably accompany the third contingent of men now being enrolled for South Africa.

### Annotations.

#### THE KING AND TUBERCULOSIS.

The King's decision to devote the £200,000, placed at his disposal for charitable or utilitarian purposes by Sir Ernest Cassel, to providing a sanatorium for the open air treatment of tuberculosis will doubtless give an impetus to this movement which, founded as it is on common sense principles, must be fraught with benefit to the victims of this dread disease.

Not only will the institution be used for the treatment of one hundred patients, but it will be fully equipped with all requirements for scientific research. It is his Majesty's wish that this sanatorium shall be as perfect as possible in every detail, and, in order that the best results may be secured, the King has directed that £800 shall be expended in prizes of £500, £200, and £100 respectively for the best essays and plans for the construction of a model sanatorium, provided that these attain a given standard of excellence. The competition is open to medical men of all nationalities.

If we may make a suggestion, which appears to us worthy of consideration, it is that the essays and plans should be the combined work of coalitions, consisting in each case of an architect, a medical practitioner (for why should medical women be excluded from the competition?) and a trained Matron. The purely technical work would be best performed by an architect, while invaluable advice can be contributed by both medical practitioners and experienced Matrons.

#### A SERIOUS ASPECT.

It is satisfactory to know that the Metropolitan Asylums Board is alive to the serious aspect which the outbreak of infectious diseases is assuming in the metropolis, and is taking steps to deal adequately with it. On one day recently, 142 cases of small-pox, fever, and diphtheria were removed to the Board's hospitals, and, in view of the fact that a considerable increase on this number is expected in the months between January and May, the Ambulance Committee advise the establishment of an additional ambulance station at West Wharf, Fulham. It is also recommended that additional nursing accommodation be provided at the South Wharf, that a paddle-steamer be purchased for £7,750 for the conveyance of small-pox

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