

been held somewhat later this year than usual. Dr. Tooks and Dr. Silvester held the annual examination for all the nurses and probationers at the end of the course of lectures, July 9th to 10th.

Dr. Seymour Sharkey, of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, conducted the fourth final examination for the nurses in their third year, on July 24th. He reports:—"I have this day examined the nurses here, and they acquitted themselves very well indeed, and showed that they had been excellently taught."

Ten nurses who received instruction in massage have been successful in passing the examination and obtaining the certificate of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses during the year.

Writing from a concentration camp in the Transvaal a nurse writes of the sad time now past:—"Not unfrequently one of the columns brings in a batch of half-starved emaciated women and children from the outlying districts—many of them in absolute rags. We have instituted an orphanage. We could not keep the children in hospital indefinitely, nor could we turn them adrift. At first we had several wards filled with marasmus children, poor little skeletons, who had scarcely sufficient energy to cry, but the majority of them recovered, and are now quite plump and healthy-looking. Our supply of cows' milk is very limited, but that is our greatest drawback, otherwise the rations are of good quality and quantity. I used to think the Boer babies did not know how to laugh or play, but they soon get accustomed to us, and run after us in the camp, calling us 'Seester' and wishing us 'good morning,' &c. There is quite a large school here with eight English teachers, and we want the children to learn 'God Save the King' before Coronation Day. Lack of education and a wholesome interest in healthy recreation accounts in a great measure for the faults of the Boers. The younger ones especially seem very capable of being improved, but it takes them a long while to overcome their prejudice against work, especially of the domestic kind. On their farms the Kaffirs do practically all the work. They are also very afraid of the sun, and the camp women go about with their heads enveloped in huge sun bonnets, their mouths and chins swathed in handkerchiefs (often woollen ones) and their hands and arms well protected by gauntlets. When they come into the wards for training they have to dispense with their protections, though the matron allows them to wear cotton sun bonnets during the hottest part of the day. We have a camp matron, two camp 'sisters,' and several nurses who go through the camp at least twice a day, hunting out the sick, dressing small wounds, overlooking the turning out of the tents at least three times a week, and inspecting generally."

The Hospital World.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

At a recent meeting of the representatives of the various Massachusetts hospitals for the insane, held at Boston, to consider the relation of nurses to the hospital in reference to their hours of duty, salaries, housing, and social life, some interesting and instructive opinions were expressed.

Dr. H. B. Howard, of the State Colony for the Insane and the Massachusetts General Hospital, stated that one way of increasing the efficiency of nurses would be to eliminate the servant girl class as much as possible. In the Massachusetts General Hospital this had been accomplished by lowering wages. Pupils receive only 6 dols. per month during training, which offers no inducement to the mere time-server. On the other hand, there are prizes for the higher positions, some of the head nurses receiving 50 dols. per month. He believed that not enough difference was made between the ordinary nurse and the thoroughly satisfactory one.

Dr. Hosea M. Quimby, of the Worcester Insane Hospital, believed that the nursing service was the vital part of hospital management, and advocated shorter hours for nurses.

Dr. Philip Coombs Knapp, a trustee of the Boston Insane Hospital, said that the service of male nurses and attendants in the insane hospital had generally been unsatisfactory. He commended the system in the St. Lawrence Insane Hospital in Ogdensburg, N.Y., where he found male wards in the care of women nurses, male attendants being within call, and also in charge of some of the excited wards. The women nurses received the same pay as men doing similar work, and in general gave much better service. In some instances they had a valuable restraining influence over patients.

The Bill before the Legislature providing that ten hours shall be a day's work for nurses came in for some condemnation from Dr. George S. Adams, of the Westborough Insane Hospital. He said that under the proposed conditions of the Bill no State insane hospital could be properly conducted. In his hospital alone the nurses would have to be increased by fifty-five, and even then there would be no place in the institution for the nurses to live. Superintendent French and others all agreed that the proposed law limiting the hours of service for nurses would be a severe hardship on all the hospitals, unless the State made much larger appropriations, and provided Nurses' Homes. A letter was read from Dr. J. P. Brown, stating that he favoured shortening the hours of labour of nurses, the increase of pay, and the establishment of Nurses' Homes in connection with the State institutions for the insane. A sensible man Dr. Brown, and no doubt, had the nurses themselves been permitted to take part in the conference concerning their own affairs, they would have supported him *en masse*.

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