

Secretary, Hampton J. Aubrey, Esq., 3, Fawley Road, by any of whom donations in support of this object will be gratefully received.

A large portion of the morning was occupied by the Bristol Board of Guardians at their last meeting in discussing the question of the ownership of the uniforms supplied to nurses. It was complained that the nurses regarded the dresses, aprons, collars, &c., as their own property, and applied to be allowed to take them away when they left, and several guardians urged that the clothing was the property of the board, and should be put into store for use by another nurse when the original wearer left. Other guardians contended that such a course would be prejudicial to the relations of the board with their nursing staff. They could not expect a nurse to wear second-hand clothes, and to ask them to do so would be contrary to the custom observed at other institutions.

We wonder if the guardians who consider that the uniform of their nurses should be regarded as common property would themselves appreciate wearing clothes which went the round of the board. They can scarcely expect to secure the services of nurses who will be dainty and particular in their work if they are expected to wear the cast-off clothing of their predecessors. Presumably it does not occur to the mere male that a dress which is but 20 inches in the waist would have a somewhat curious appearance on a nurse with a waist measurement of 25 inches.

In a letter addressed to the hon. secretary of the League of St. John's House Nurses, Mrs. Grace Neill, Assistant Inspector of Hospitals in New Zealand, who was trained by St. John's House, in applying for membership, expresses her thorough accord with the objects of the League. In acknowledging the congratulations of the League upon the passage of an Act by the New Zealand Parliament for the State Registration of Nurses, Mrs. Neill says:—"Its effects will be far-reaching, and will, I hope, raise the standard of Hospital Committees and Matrons as to the class of girl admitted as probationer. The administration of the Nurses' Registration Act for this first year is a little difficult, as a sort of back door, in the form of a not very difficult examination, has to be kept open for nurses who have only a one-year certificate, with over four years' experience, until January 1st, 1903. Our first 'State examination' for all nurses now training in hospitals, holding a three years' certificate, will be held on the same day early next December throughout New Zealand, much on the lines of a Local University Examination."

It is scarcely credible in these days that, in a country which prides itself on its toleration to all in matters religious, the religious creed of a Matron should cause strong feeling. Yet at a recent meeting of the Guildford and District Isolation Hospital Board, when the Committee proposed advertising the appointment of Matron, it was elicited, on an amendment proposing the appointment of Miss Healy, who was temporarily in charge, that the only reason why the Committee had not proposed her was that she was a Roman Catholic. A strong protest was made against religion entering into the question, and the amendment was carried by nine votes to three; whereupon Mr. Weston, the Chairman of the Board, resigned his position.

Though the scheme for the erection of the Nurses' Home of the North Staffordshire Infirmary, the foundation stone of which was laid with full Masonic honours by the Earl of Dartmouth, Lord Lieutenant of the County, has only assumed a practical form during the presidency of Mr. A. F. Coghill, Mr. W. H. Folker, the consulting surgeon of the medical staff, is given the credit of being its virtual originator. Writing to the Committee in January, 1899, Mr. Folker said—"So impressed am I with the absolute necessity of providing a Home and suitable sleeping accommodation for the nurses of this infirmary, that I should much like to see a fund established for that object, as our present position is so inferior to that of other hospitals of similar magnitude. If we are to attract and retain first-class nurses, we must make them comfortable, so that they may value their positions. Should the Committee be willing to accede to my request, I shall be glad to start the fund with a donation of £100, but with this proviso, that the competition for designs and plans be thrown entirely open, so that we may secure having the best and most up-to-date building for the purpose." It was not until the annual meeting in 1901 that it was fully decided to carry out the scheme and erect a new block of buildings to be called "King Edward the Seventh Home for Nurses."

The Home will comprise fifty-four bedrooms for nurses and sisters, large sitting-rooms, library, capacious entrance hall, cloak room, cycle room for thirty machines, servants' rooms, linen and box rooms, ten bathrooms, and the usual offices. The buildings will be lighted by electricity, and the heating will be on the low pressure principle. Truly the modern nurse is well done by.

The following Sisters are now on their way home from South Africa:—

In the *Dunvegan Castle*:—Sisters B. F. Whyte, A. E. Howard, C. Condell, and E. C. Lloyd. Due at Southampton on November 8th.

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