

The report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the origin of the recent fire at Addenbrooke's Hospital expresses the belief that the fire originated in a beam laid alongside of and partially supporting the chimney stack at the north-eastern angle of the Victoria Ward. The Committee is of opinion that an examination should be made throughout the Hospital, as if this method of construction prevails throughout the building, it is dangerous and unsafe, and the possible consequences are very serious. The fact that fires have occurred in three important hospitals—Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and St. George's and the Royal Free, in London—is one which must impress upon nurses the necessity for extreme care. It is satisfactory that in none of the above cases was the outbreak due to any carelessness on the part of a nurse, and that the nursing staffs of the hospitals concerned rendered conspicuous service in suppressing the fires.

In relation to the appointment of Miss Crispin, which we record in another column, as Matron of the Swansea Hospital, we understand that her knowledge of Welsh turned the scale in favour of her appointment. The House Committee recommended four candidates out of a large number for final selection by the Board of Management; of these two withdrew, so that only two applications were before the Board—those of the Assistant Matron and of Miss Crispin. There was a strong feeling on the part of some members of the Committee that the claims of the former lady, whose qualifications were excellent, should not be overlooked, while others held that all things being equal a Welsh-speaking candidate should be appointed.

In principle we agree with the latter view, presuming that the nursing and administrative qualifications of the candidate are first-rate. It would be unwise to make a knowledge of Welsh an essential qualification, considering how few nurses comparatively are acquainted with it. Indeed, it would appear to be of less importance in the Matron of the institution than in the Sisters and Nurses, as the Matron comes less into direct contact with the patients. At the same time, if a desirable candidate possesses a knowledge of Welsh it appears obvious that this point should weigh in her favour.

In regard to the promotion of an Assistant Matron to the post of Matron in the same institution, we are not prepared to say that the work of an Assistant Matron should never be recognised in this way, but experience, of many years' standing, has led us to believe that in the interests of discipline and loyalty such an appointment should be the exception rather than the rule. We have noticed recently on several occasions that on the resignation of a Matron the promotion of her assistant has been taken almost as a matter of course. This is regret-

table, as it is often well that new blood should be introduced into the *personnel* of an institution from time to time. Further, the Assistant Matron, having been on terms of equality with those whom it becomes her duty to rule, finds it more difficult to enforce necessary discipline than a stranger; and, lastly, if the second in command has strong reason for expecting promotion in the event of a vacancy, the temptation to strengthen her position by undesirable wire-pulling is at once evident. We are dealing with the general principle and not with any particular instance, but we think it well that these points should be taken into consideration by committees in appointing to the important position of Matron.

In 1900 a few friends of Ober-Ammergau opened a subscription to endow a bed at this hospital in memory of the Passion Play. It was found that a resident nurse to live in the hospital to go out to nurse the sick in their own homes would be a greater boon to Ober-Ammergau. With the consent of those who had contributed to the original scheme this proposal was adopted. The suggestion is that everyone who has seen and appreciated the Passion Play on any occasion since 1870-71 till the last representation in 1900 should contribute. The sum of £1,000 would be needed to form an Endowment Fund.

At the annual meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Co-operation of Trained Nurses, recently held in the Religious Institution, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, at which Lord Provost Primrose presided, it was reported that there were now 168 nurses on the roll, as against 146 on October 1st, 1901. The cases attended by the nurses of the Co-operation numbered 1,735, as against 1,296 in 1901. The total sum earned by the nurses was £9,626, an increase of £1,280. The number of cases dealt with by nurses of the Co-operation since its foundation in 1894 was 7,927. Thirteen nurses had volunteered for South Africa. Ten of these had been sent to military hospitals, and three to concentration camps. These latter were still in South Africa, and of the others, three had returned home, one had died from enteric fever, two had married, and four were still in the country. The financial statement showed that the total income earned for the year was £1,163, and the total expenditure £878, which left a surplus of £285.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that he was old enough to remember the time when the nurse was a female usually conspicuous by the lack of all nurse-like qualities, whose arrival meant for a household a period of great distress and great upsetting of domestic arrangements. The Co-operation had been a great boon to the nursing class in the past, and he trusted

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