

Referring to this regrettable item in the report, the Chairman appealed for increased support from the public generally, and said personally he intended to double his subscription, and if others would do the same the anxieties of the Hon. Secretary, Miss Guthrie Wright, would soon be removed.

We are informed that nurses in uniform in a certain district in the West End are made the object of very undesirable attentions from a man well known to the police. We can only advise any nurse who may be treated offensively in this way to at once hand over the transgressor into custody.

We hear that the nurses of the Nurses' Co-operation are desirous that the fees which they receive in special branches of their work, such as infectious cases, should be raised to the same level as those charged by similar private nursing associations. We think the feeling is a reasonable one, and should be glad if a basis of common action in regard to fees charged could be agreed upon between the various co-operations and private nursing institutions.

Sisters A. Garriock and A. Kuys left Cape Town in the s.s. *Dilwara* on December 10th en route for Southampton. The *Dilwara* is due at Southampton on New Year's Day.

We heartily endorse the criticism of the *British Medical Journal* as to the proposition of the Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board on Workhouse Nursing with regard to certificating a class of nurses to be called "qualified nurses" at the end of a year. Our contemporary says:—

"We cannot believe that this scheme is workable, and we feel clear that if it were put into practice it would do a great deal of harm. Its fatal defect is that it would add another grade of nurse to the already chaotic ranks of the nursing profession, that another certificate (quite valueless and misleading) is placed in the hands of the unscrupulous and ignorant who pose as trained nurses, and by the use of which they can endanger the lives of the unwary. The proposed scheme would introduce, under official sanction, a lower standard of training, and a lower grade of nurse would be launched on society to compete on equal terms with nurses fully trained in hospital or infirmary. It is beyond the wit of man to devise any plan of keeping Poor Law nurses as a distinct class, nor do we wish to see any such plan evolved; the nurses cannot but gain by being trained in the excellent infirmaries under the Local Government Board, and we feel sure that the evolution of trained nursing must be in the direction of levelling up, not down.

"The admission of probationers into workhouse infirmaries at the discretion of the guardians is a matter for careful consideration so that no injustice shall be done to young women who may be misled as to the training given. The question of subsidies towards the payment of the nursing staff or the education of probationers, and several others of like importance, require most careful study, for which an Advisory Board is necessary."

We do not doubt that if an experienced nurse had been appointed on the Departmental Committee the suggestion as to "Qualified Nurses" would never have been made.

An inquest was held at Guildford recently as to the death of a farmer named George Henry Rose, aged thirty, and the cause of death was returned as exhaustion from acute mania following influenza, greatly accelerated by burns. The nurse had left her patient's room when she heard a groan, and returning found him clutching at the bars of the grate endeavouring to rub his neck along the top bar. In getting him away the nurse burned her hand badly. Surely a patient suffering from acute mania should not be left alone for an instant. How frequently one hears of the death of patients "during the temporary absence of the nurse."

It has recently been felt by the Committee of the Liverpool Workhouse, which was the pioneer institution in workhouse nursing reform, that there were too few officers of experience for the adequate teaching of probationers. At the instance of Miss Thorburn, a special committee was appointed to consider the whole subject, and the result is that the teaching and superintending staff is to be strengthened.

Miss Thorburn, in moving the adoption of the report, said they must keep up their reputation, and recognise that as the general standard of nursing was being raised they must improve the training they gave. The recommendations would, she thought, enable probationers to be better trained.

Miss Martin, Superintendent Nurse of the Barnsley Union Infirmary, tendered her resignation on the 29th ult., and asked to be allowed to leave on the 6th inst. She was informed that the Guardians could not make arrangements to release her before the end of the month, when Miss Martin replied that she was determined to leave, and would forfeit a month's salary. We consider such conduct quite indefensible. Nurses who undertake engagements should fulfil them, and not consider their own convenience entirely to the exclusion of that of their employers.

Miss Shepley, who for the last four years has acted as district nurse in connection with the Milnthorpe and Storth Nursing Association, has

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