

The Hon. Mrs. Portman, of Hestercombe, distributed the prizes and certificates to the following:—Nursing—First, Nurse M. A. Petter; equal second, Nurse Renfrey and Nurse Mabel Lee. Elementary anatomy—First, Nurse E. W. Connor; second, Nurse C. M. Porter. Elementary physiology—First, Nurse Porter; second, Nurse E. W. Connor; third, Nurse Ella Pocock. Mrs. Portman warmly congratulated the nurses on their success, and wished the Matron—Miss Bulteel—and everyone in the hospital a “Happy New Year.”

We consider the Aylsham Board of Guardians dealt too leniently with Mr. A. W. Seeley, the Master of the Workhouse, in merely reprimanding him for the scandalous affair in connection with the departure of Nurse Ogleby, when it was proved that hooting and tinning took place and the woman was burnt in effigy. Such lack of discipline in a public institution proves that the Master is unfitted to control.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow delivered a most practical address at the annual meeting of the managers with the nurses of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

“His first duty, he said, was to wish all present a very bright and prosperous New Year. If he might take external nature as an augury of hope, he thought it might be taken to symbolise a year full of joy and happiness for them all in their different spheres, and to give them a stimulus and an inspiration for all the duties that lay before them. He could not help, in driving through the streets, thinking that, under favourable elemental conditions, this Glasgow of ours was a very beautiful and a very stately city; and when he came to this north-eastern quarter, which, unfortunately, was not well-known to the bulk of the citizens, he found an atmosphere which the denizens of Kelvinside might well envy. On these north-eastern slopes he found a clear, bracing air, with a tonic quality which was greatly refreshing. And when he looked at the vast pile of buildings dedicated to the noblest of all causes, the help of suffering humanity, he found fresh food for congratulation in the many benevolent institutions possessed by our city. He was delighted to have an opportunity, for the first time in his life, to speak to nurses of the infirmary. He thought there could be no finer calling in life for a woman. If he had a houseful of daughters—and he regretted extremely that he had not—if he had troops of daughters, he would give every one of them a calling, because he could conceive of nothing more deplorable than a woman growing up with no sort of interest in life, without the capacity to fulfil some useful function to the community. He was sorry to see young women growing up, knowing not what fate might hold in its hand for them, what vicissitudes of fortune might overtake them; above all, he rejoiced to see women entering on some such vocation because of the independence, stability, and confidence of character with which it inspired them. There were many things which men could do, there were many regions open to them; but there was one into which they could not enter, and “when care and anguish

rent the brow” they could not act so well as ministering angels. It was left to woman’s more delicate perception, to woman’s more acutely sensitive touch to fill that holiest and loftiest of all spheres in which woman’s effort could have operation—viz., to tend and minister to those who lay on beds of sickness and beds of anguish. He rejoiced to have the opportunity of addressing such a company. He wished them all God-speed in their lofty calling, and he hoped that the year that had dawned so brightly upon them might have many pages and many chapters full of love for them all.

“To the Institution itself he wished all success. The infirmaries of Glasgow was a magic word in the hearts of the citizens. How many were to-day walking the streets of the city, healthy and virile men, who had entered their doors suffering from some sudden, quick stroke which disabled them, or from some sudden or long illness, who were through their agency now active members of society? From thousands of such hearts a grateful feeling of thankfulness arose when the name of that and kindred institutions were mentioned.

“He was glad to know that Mrs. Strong had very near her heart a scheme for the provision of a home for aged nurses. That scheme would probably take shape soon. He knew Mrs. Strong was a lady of very independent mind, and she wished to put that institution upon an independent and self-supporting basis. At the same time, he knew that whenever such a scheme was put before the citizens of Glasgow there would be a ready and quick response, for the effort would commend itself to all their minds and hearts. He could only say that while he occupied the position in which he had been placed by his fellow-citizens, if his services in any direction, material or otherwise, could be of any value to that institution, they would be willingly and loyally placed at the disposal of the managers.”

If we desire to realise how far we have gone forward in the amelioration of suffering during the past century, and the extraordinary impetus given to the care of the insane by the adoption of the American system of treating these unfortunates as sick people instead of criminals, we should do well to study a report which a Committee of the House of Commons presented in 1815 on the management of Bethlehem Hospital, and the treatment, or rather horrible ill-treatment, to which the poor lunatics were subjected at that date. For instance:—

“About ten patients, each chained by one arm or leg to the wall, the chain allowing them merely to stand up by the bench or form fixed to the wall, or to sit down on it. For dress, each had only a sort of blanket-gown, made like a dressing-gown, but with nothing to fasten it round the body. The feet were without shoes or stockings. Some of these patients were lost in imbecility, dirty, and offensive. Associated with them were others capable of coherent conversation, and sensible and accomplished. Many women were locked up in their cells, chained, without clothing, and with only one blanket for a covering.

“In the men’s wing, six patients in the side room were chained close to the wall, five were handcuffed, and one was locked to the wall by the right arm as

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