

nurses. Help has been given through the Tate Fund to twenty-five nurses on the sick list.

The nursing work in the Island of Achill was started as an experiment in 1897. It was so successful that though it was found impossible to raise the necessary sum for the maintenance of the nurses in the Island, the Council of the Institute undertook the raising of a special fund. In pleading for its support, no stronger appeal can be made than that of the people of Achill, who say:—"We cannot find words to give an idea of our nurse's great worth and services. We honestly believe she saved the lives of a great deal of the women of this parish since she came amongst us. We therefore implore the noble institution to leave us our much-needed nurse."

On Monday afternoon the Princess of Wales, attended by the Countess of Airlie, visited the British Lying-in Hospital in Endell Street, to open the new Nurses' Home in Betterton Street. Her Royal Highness was received at the entrance of the Home by Lord Kinnaid (Vice-President), Mr. C. E. Farmer (Chairman of the Board), Sir John Williams, and Miss Gertrude Knott, the Matron. The formal ceremony took place in the dining-room, of which we gave a description last week. The Princess then received purses for the building fund, towards which donations are much needed.

Princess Louise has promised to attend at Battersea Town Hall on the 30th inst., for the purpose of receiving purses on behalf of the Surrey District Nursing Association.

The Society for the Protection of Life from Fire decided to present medals to the police, nurses, and attendants who were conspicuous in saving life at the terrible fire at Colney Hatch Asylum. It is stated that the L.C.C. has forbidden the nurses or attendants to receive the medals, as it would be against their rules as to "fees and rewards." The Commissioner of Police raises no such objection, and the presentation will be made to the police officers shortly. It seems very hard on the nurses and attendants that a rule should be applied so rigidly.

There have been "wigs on the green" at meetings of the Camberwell and Southwark Boards of Guardians, where some of the members are accused of more sympathy than strict legality permits. The wife of a postman earning 27s. a week, suffering from phthisis, was admitted to the infirmary upon the payment of 8s. a week. The question debated was, was she a fit case for State relief? Not strictly eligible certainly, but how is this most deserving class to be properly treated and nursed in sickness? Yet if all and sundry are admitted to our Poor Law

infirmaries, where is the ratepayers' responsibility to end? Such a course, it is argued, spells medical socialism.

What is surely coming along is plain to be seen. The taint of pauperism must be removed from our State hospitals, the patients classified, and pay according to their means for the best medical and nursing skill obtainable. The poor man's only asset is his health; and it is the duty of the State to make it possible for him to conserve this asset, so that he falls not down into pauper depths.

The general hospitals are in effect schools of medicine. No chronics can be admitted; phthisis, the cruel enemy of the poor, is inadmissible. The State hospitals must, therefore, provide for the needs of these curable sufferers, and not make pauperism the only passport to relief.

The East Grinstead Board of Guardians are still wrangling over the question of whether the patients under their jurisdiction shall have the benefit of a trained nurse or not. At present apparently the "noes" have it, and the services of a woman at £20 a year (instead of £18) are to be provided for this duty. This salary will not even tempt a good ward-maid to offer herself for the post.

The s.s. *Nubia*, which left Cape Town on May 30th, had on board Nursing Sisters G. W. Wood, E. Mackae, E. A. Brodie, and A. C. Jacob. She is due at Southampton on June 21st.

Nurse Humphrey wrote to the Medway Board of Guardians resigning her position. Mr. Hart inquired if there was any cause for her doing so. The Clerk replied he believed she contemplated being married. Nurse Humphrey asked the Board to give her a testimonial "in case of accident"; and the Clerk expressed the opinion that she was "wise in her generation." The resignation was accepted and it was decided to give a testimonial.

The nuns at the Granard Workhouse are showing great personal animus towards Dr. Kenny, who has felt compelled to expose the inefficient nursing of the sick which so greatly "shocked" the Irish Local Government Board. The Guardians are evidently in sympathy with the nuns, but we are pleased to observe that Dr. Kenny remains firm, and refuses to be "drawn" on side issues. He stands for the thorough nursing of the sick poor in the workhouse, and all our sympathy is with him in his fight with ignorance and religious bias.

An English lady, Miss Charlotte Page, who was suffering from melancholia, and travelling abroad with her sister and a nurse, threw herself overboard from the steamer *Uvi*, on the Lake of the Four Cantons, "while their attention was engaged." It is believed that she was killed immediately by the

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