

A service of special trams carried to Heaton Park, Manchester, on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons last week, some 500 of the nurses engaged at hospitals and homes for the sick in Manchester and Salford. The nurses were the guests of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, who gave a garden party on the lawn at Heaton Hall. The afternoon was sunny enough for the rabbits to stretch lazily on the close-nibbled turf, and the tea-tables and the entertainment platform were in the open air. Rambles in the park were enjoyed when the formal programme was finished, and some of the nurses were fortunate enough to mark down a group of deer and fawns. The kind hospitality of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress was greatly appreciated by all who participated in it.

Three of the members of the nursing staff of the Bradford Children's Hospital were last week decorated by the Mayor with the medal given by the hospital as an award of merit for efficiency. They were Nurse Annie Dinsdale (gold medal), Nurse Louis Atkinson (silver), Nurse Mary Weatherhead (bronze). The centre of the medal is occupied with the title, "Bradford Children's Hospital. Award of Merit for Efficiency," showing through rich blue enamel. Above, the Bradford Arms are worked in correct heraldic tints, and, below, the hospital itself is enamelled in colour. A modelled laurel wreath is very effectively introduced, and a diaper ground gives a very pleasing finish.

Mr. J. W. Tillotson, Chairman of the Infirmary Committee of the Halifax Poor-Law Infirmary, made out a good case for the Committee when speaking to a resolution proposed by Mr. F. King with the object of reducing the nursing staff. He said:—"The motion was plainly a vote of censure on the Hospital Committees of the past and present year, and as chairman of both he was glad to have the opportunity of replying to Mr. King's remarks. There were many occasions when he had not had the opportunity to reply to accusations of extravagance, &c., and human nature got rather weary of pin-pricks. At the Union Hospital there were only thirty-eight working nurses, and there were the Matron, the Assistant Matron, and the Night Superintendent. These forty nurses were entitled to three week's holiday, a total of 120 weeks, which was taken during the summer months, when the number of patients in the hospital generally decreased. Out of the forty nurses there were only eight fully qualified nurses, the rest being probationers, and there were 400 beds for them to look after. Dr. Fuller had told him that they ought to have more fully qualified nurses, but for the sake of economy, and the belief of the Matron that the work could be managed as they were, no increase had been made in the staff. He admitted there were hospitals with a less staff than that at Halifax, but in many of those cases

outside help had to be called in on emergencies. Mr. King did not say in how many of these hospitals he had mentioned pauper help was employed. Halifax had been wise enough to do away with pauper help, and run its hospitals on modern lines. The total number of beds at the Salterhebble Hospital was 361, which, divided amongst 38 nurses, was 9½ beds for each nurse. However, in this matter, averages were misleading. It did not mean that each nurse would attend at 9½ beds, as one nurse might attend 15 or 16 beds, but the average was brought down by night attendants. He had a letter from the Matron at Leeds Hospital, in which she told him that the average number of beds per nurse was 9½, the same as at Halifax. At the Bradford Hospital there were 334 beds and 43 nurses, or 7¾ beds to each nurse. Mr. King was continually harking back to the old hospital nursing, when he knew that Miss Wilkie continually said that her staff at that time was inadequate. Moreover, Miss Wilkie said that forty nurses was the lowest number with which she could start at the new hospital. They could not have workhouse nursing cheap, unless they wanted it nasty. He did not hesitate to say that there was no hospital he knew, as up-to-date as theirs, which was run cheaper. The hospital at Salterhebble was a heritage for the poor, and he appealed to the Board not to tamper with it and spoil it. If the Board did not think the Committee worked the hospital efficiently and economically, they would make way for others, who might do better in the eyes of some, but who, he was sadly afraid, would impair the usefulness of the institution." We are glad to say the motion was defeated.

In response to our appeal for lavender for hospital linen cupboards last week, we have received a welcome consignment, deliciously fragrant, from Mrs. Myers, Dunningwell, Millom, Cumberland, for which we tender our heartiest thanks.

A Windfall for King's College Hospital.

On Wednesday, in the Chancery Division, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady heard an adjourned summons *in re* Storks Collyer Bristow *v.* the King's College Hospital. His Lordship was asked to give directions in the administration of the estate of the late Robert Reeve Storks, the son of the late Mr. S. Storks. The real personal estate amounted to £154,000, and he gave legacies amounting to £100,000, including £20,000 to endow a ward in the King's College Hospital. He directed that the residue should go to the same hospital for the like object. His Lordship ordered the money given to King's College Hospital to be invested in the name of the President, Vice-President, and Governors of the hospital as trustees.

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