

The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association.

The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, at a special general meeting held in Sydney, considered the difficult question of the status of the Midwifery Branch of the Association. In this country, and in New South Wales, the midwife and the midwifery nurse are a class apart. In the United States the midwife question is non-existent, as the graduate nurse, either during her training or as a post-graduate course, as a matter of course obtains obstetric experience. Again, in Victoria, only those nurses who have added obstetric work to their general training are recognised by the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association. So each country grapples with the question to the best of its ability in its own way, and, while all are agreed, as a counsel of perfection, that a basis of general training is desirable, all are not agreed that a sound midwifery nurse cannot be produced by a course of special training only, and so place her in a separate class. This is the course pursued by the Australasian Association.

Each country must deal with its own peculiar difficulties in its own way. To us, however, it is always a matter for regret when any nursing association accepts the principle of the registration of specialists. It is so important in these early days of nursing organisation that our foundations should be well and truly laid if we are not to bequeath difficulties to our successors. If our profession is to be founded on the scientific basis which we claim for it, then we must add special qualifications to the general one, and avoid stamping as adequate training in one branch only, however skilful in that one detail its members may be.

Miss M'Gahey, the Matron of Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, delivered to the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association an interesting lecture, entitled "Notes on Hospitals Recently Visited," in which she described her visits to British, American, and Canadian hospitals at the time of the International Congress. The lecture is published at length in the Journal of the Association, and will be welcomed by Miss M'Gahey's many friends both here and in the United States.

"Papal Infallibility."

Sir Trevor Lawrence, Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has ably answered in the *Times* the statements made by Sir Henry Burdett in regard to the late meeting of Governors. In the course of this letter, he says:—

"I do not believe that the Governors of this hospital have any intention of handing over the management of their affairs, which the Mansion House Committee reported unanimously 'had been conducted in

a wise and enlightened spirit, with a due regard to economy and in the best interests of the patients,' to Sir Henry Burdett, whose assumption of a sort of papal infallibility would be amusing, were it not injurious to a great charitable institution in need of help from the public."

Legal Matters.

NURSES NOT DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

The advantage to a nurse of joining a Co-operation and so having its Committee at her back was demonstrated in connection with a recent case in the Bloomsbury County Court, when the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, W., sued Mr. Emil Horner, of 2, Cavendish Mansions, Portland Place, for £2 2s. and 12s. costs.

Nurse Davies, a member of the Co-operation, said she was engaged to attend the defendant's wife in her confinement. She paid fourteen visits, and her usual charge was from 5s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. per visit.

Judge Bacon: What, do you mean that nurses nowadays are paid by the number of visits?—Yes, your Honour. We visit where we cannot be accommodated. We have neither lodging nor food, and, in this case, I made an inclusive charge of £2 2s. At the end of my visits Mr. Horner gave me a cheque for the money with many thanks, but on the following morning he stopped payment of the cheque at the bank.

Defendant explained that he stopped the cheque because he had been told that the charge was excessive. The nurse did not come until half-past eleven in the morning. Altogether she was not more than fifteen hours at his flat, and he considered 1s. 6d. an hour ample payment for the work. He had to stay at home to do the cooking and look after the patient.

Judge Bacon: You are under a wrong impression. Nurses nowadays are not domestic servants. They do no cooking, and have servants to wait on them. You admit that your wife is quite well now, and you cannot say that the nurse has been guilty of any negligence. Judgment for the plaintiff, with costs.

ALLEGED LIBEL AGAINST A NURSE.

Another action of considerable interest to private nurses was one which had been remitted from the High Court and was tried at Birmingham County Court last week. The plaintiff, a nurse named Mildred Davies, sued Mrs. Rosannah Anderson Thompson, Amberley Ridge, Stroud, to recover £300 damages for libel. Miss Davies had been nursing Mrs. Thompson, but after some time was recalled by the Matron of the Nursing Home, Soho Road, Handsworth, by whom she had been sent. Application was made to Mrs. Thompson for two guineas due to the nurse, when Mrs. Thompson

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