

quired medical attendance; nevertheless, for the safety and comfort of passengers it is regarded as essential that a passenger ship should carry a medical officer. In respect to sleeping accommodation, surely all ships' passengers must be aware that the tables in the saloons are frequently occupied by stewards and stewardesses after the passengers have turned in.

The annual meeting of the Governors of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Institution for Trained Nurses was held last week at No. 12, The Crescent, Mrs. William Kenrick presiding in the absence of the Lord Mayor, who had been called away from town. The Committee reported that the work of the year had been well maintained. Very satisfactory reports were received of the efficiency of the nurses, who now numbered eighty-five, four of whom were still probationers. The new system of engaging only trained nurses continued to work satisfactorily. There were five nurses on the pension list. A great amount of work had been again undertaken for such hospitals as had made application for the assistance of the nurses, and had given mutual satisfaction. The nurses had received £429 7s. 6d. as the percentage of their earnings during the year. The accounts were again encouraging, there being a surplus of income over expenditure of £650. We should like to know why a grant of £220 had been made to the District Nursing Society? It is certainly bad economy that the surplus earnings of nurses should be utilised to support charitable work, however excellent. Birmingham is quite rich enough to pay for the gratuitous nursing of its own poor.

From the report of the Birmingham District Nursing Society—presented at the annual meeting—we gather it is doing fine work. It states that this work has increased during the past year by 143 cases sent in and 2,442 visits paid by nurses. There were seventeen nurses in the Society's homes. The Committee, after exercising much economy, found themselves with a loss of £306 16s. 4d. on the year's working, and, had it not been for the help afforded by the Ladies' Auxiliary Fund, the deficit must have necessitated a serious reduction in the staff. It was with regret that the Committee noted the annual subscriptions amounted to only £741 19s., towards meeting an expenditure of £1,742. It appealed to the present subscribers and all interested in the work to obtain increased subscriptions.

A hopeful feature was the willingness to "learn from the nurse" which existed among the friends and relations of patients. The Chairman said that the District Nursing Society supplemented the great progress made at the hospitals in a most effective way. Not only did the visits of the nurses alleviate the suffering of the patients, but

they also enabled homes to be made much more comfortable.

Miss Tamar Bean, for many years Matron of the Homoeopathic Hospital, Birmingham, who resigned this position recently owing to a breakdown in health, has, with a friend, Miss Mabel Graham, taken Eyton Hall, a fine old family mansion near Wellington, Salop, where they receive paying guests. Portions of the house, which stands in its own grounds, date back to the fifteenth century, and it contains some fine specimens of old oak, Sheraton and Chippendale furniture. The neighbourhood is an interesting one, amongst its attractions being the Wrekin, the circuit of horizon of which is said to be from 350 to 400 miles.

Miss Bean and Miss Graham offer many attractions to their guests, amongst which, as "Little Mary" is ever importunate, must be mentioned an excellent cuisine. The Hall is in a good hunting centre, and horses can be stabled by arrangement; there are golf links in the park, and trout and coarse fishing can be had within a short distance. There are also tennis and croquet lawns, the church and post-office are close at hand, the roads in the immediate neighbourhood are excellent for cycling, and a room is set apart for visitors' cycles. The terms are from 35s. to 63s. per week, inclusive of board, and hot and cold baths. The terms for week-end visits are from 15s. We think that anyone who obtains a prospectus of the Hall will be desirous of paying it a visit on the first opportunity.

Times at the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, are hard, and, as usual, one of the first departments to which the average committee-man looks for retrenchment is the nursing department. Thus, Mr. R. H. Wilson at the annual meeting drew attention to "a somewhat additional burden on the hospital" in the number of probationers they had there. It was better to have good nurses than probationers who cost the hospital money. Mr. Horne explained that the Committee thought it a cheap way of getting nurses. Women's labour is ever cheap, and it has been proved many times that by means of a well-organised training-school not only cheapness but efficiency is secured. But the Committee must remember that probationers perform a large amount of the domestic work of a hospital for remuneration which no domestic servant would accept, in order to obtain with it professional training as nurses. Committees must therefore be prepared to spend money on the education of probationers, or to pay the full price which the domestic work they perform would command in the open labour market.

The familiar story of Highland dread of infection, and its attendant callousness, came up at a meeting of the Public Health Committee of Inverness-shire

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