

approved principles, the flooring of fine red tiles having a most pleasing effect—expensive, but thoroughly satisfactory in use, I was told. This department, as it should be, was in charge of a Sister and nurses, the sterilising and preparation for operations being essentially women's work, and one of the most valuable spheres for training. Here the pupil is taught the names and care of instruments and dressings, the technique of asepsis, or surgical cleanliness; observation, alertness, resource are called into hourly requisition, and a knowledge of, and sympathy with, the anxious and immensely responsible work of the surgeon. It is in this department in which a pupil learns that lack of conscientious care on her part may mean to sacrifice life, an awe-inspiring conviction which makes her strain every nerve in the service of the sick.

A notable feature in connection with the Richmond Hospital is the chaste and beautiful mortuary, with its marble biers, whereon the white dead rest serenely.

This still, sun-lit death-chamber gives much consolation to those who mourn. The Irish people regard the dead with infinite reverence.

A very finely-equipped pathological theatre has lately been donated to the hospital, where teaching of the highest order is at the disposal of the student.

When funds permit, it is proposed to rebuild the fever block and other departments, so that in time these conjoint hospitals will rank in the forefront of Irish institutions for the care of the sick and the education of doctors and nurses.

After seeing kitchens, laundry, and other domestic offices, all in first-rate working order, it was apparent that in Miss A. M. MacDonnell, an Irish lady trained in an Irish hospital, the Richmond Hospital has a most able administrator. This is as it should be, and goes to prove that the time has now come when administrative posts in Dublin can be quite efficiently filled by women trained in Irish hospitals. There seems no valid reason why the prizes in the Irish nursing world should be awarded to strangers. With an ever-increasing number of well-qualified candidates trained in Dublin to choose from, why should committees go further afield for Superintendents of Nursing? We quite sympathise with the very justifiable feeling amongst Irish nurses that such recognition of good work done would stimulate still further the wonderful progress made by Irish women in the noble vocation which they adorn. E. G. F.

Great regret is felt amongst the staff of the Nurses' Co-operation at the resignation of their Lady Superintendent Miss Roberts, and we learn that they intend to give practical proof of their appreciation of her work during her term of office, and that a presentation will be made to her on May 6th.

The Progress of State Registration.

THE MEETING AT CHELSEA INFIRMARY.

A most interesting and successful meeting on the subject of State Registration was held at the Chelsea Infirmary, on the invitation of the Matron, Miss E. C. Bartor, on Friday in last week at 8 p.m. In spite of a most uncompromising downpour of rain, a representative and crowded audience assembled—including many Matrons of Metropolitan Poor Law Infirmaries—which listened with the greatest interest to the addresses delivered.

In strong contrast to the depressing weather outside was the brightness and cheerfulness of the nurses' dining-room, where the meeting was held. A platform had been erected at one end, and the decorations were most tastefully carried out.

The chair was taken by Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who announced letters of regret at inability to attend from Dr. Farquharson, M.P., Sir James Joicey, Bart., M.P., Mr. Munro Ferguson, M.P., and Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P. Mr. Tennant wrote to Lady Helen Munro Ferguson:—

DEAR LADY HELEN,—I am very much distressed that I am unexpectedly called to Scotland, and must ask you to make my apologies to the meeting next Friday.

It would have been a great privilege to me to meet a large company of Matrons and nurses at Chelsea, as I was, not unnaturally, anxious to hear their views on this most interesting question of Registration.

For my part, I cannot help thinking that the public in choosing a nurse will never feel confident that a really competent person will be necessarily obtainable until some system of State Registration has been initiated, and, further, that the nurses themselves have nothing to lose and much to gain by the introduction of such a scheme.

Trusting you may have a most successful and enthusiastic meeting,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

H. J. TENNANT.

Miss Stewart, in a brief speech, said that the subject to be discussed was the most important one which could be brought before nurses. As those present decided for or against this vital reform they would take their stand on the side of progress and organisation or throw in their lot with reaction and disorganisation. Ever since she was a probationer at St. Thomas's Hospital in 1879, she had felt the need of some systematic organisation amongst nurses, and with greater experience, and as her ideas became crystallised, it became evident to her that what was needed to unite nurses into a profession was their Registration by the State. At present they were isolated units with no power of self-government, and the more thoughtful nurses realised that this undesirable condition must con-

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