

Annotations.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

The Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health are drawing public attention and preparing to take Parliamentary action on a matter which at once affects the status of an important set of officials, who are charged with the administration of the laws affecting health and sanitation, and also in the highest degree the public interest. The medical officers say that Parliament is constantly adding new duties to their official routine, and yet they have no security of tenure. They point out that the Poor Law medical officer, who is only responsible for the health of the individual outdoor or indoor pauper, has a permanent appointment, whereas the medical officer of health who is responsible for the health of the community has an engagement running in most cases from year to year, and in no case beyond five years. The result is that medical officers are not in a position of independence, and many cases are on record with the Society in which these officers have been absolutely penalised for doing their duty. It is easy to see that in small communities where the local government is in a few hands the medical officer may easily run counter to his Board. Water supply in rural districts, infectious disease in seaside communities, insanitary areas, and all those points which require careful attention are fruitful subjects of friction between the medical officer and the local health authority, and so great is the friction very often that the medical officer is dismissed at the end of his period for doing his duty. The grievance is an old one, and one Royal Commission, as well as many prominent public men, have pointed out the need for giving medical officers of health an appointment as secure and permanent as that which is accorded to the Poor Law doctor. The Incorporated Society points out that the Local Government Board, which pays half the salary, has the right to insist that the appointments shall only be terminated for some malfeasance or bad behaviour, and are about to take steps to draw the attention of Parliament to the subject with the object of placing these important officials above the caprice or, as they put it, the revenge of small local authorities. Certainly to do one's duty as a public official in opposition to local interests or prejudices requires considerable moral courage, and the position assumed by the I.S.M.O.H. is a reasonable one.

Appointments.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Mrs. Wyatt has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ireland. She was trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and has held the positions of Sister at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, Sister-in-Charge of the Huntingdon County Hospital, Matron of the District Hospital, Bushey Heath, and Sister-in-Charge of a Pavilion at the Consumption Sanatorium, Bridge of Weir.

MATRONS.

Miss Mary Carpenter, Deputy Matron at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, has been appointed Matron at the Victoria Hospital, Accrington. She received her training at the former institution.

Miss Julia Vaughan has been appointed Matron of the Stamford, Rutland, and General Infirmary. She was trained at the Peterborough Infirmary, where she has held the position of Head Nurse. She has also been Charge Nurse at the Royal Hospital, Richmond, Surrey.

SISTERS.

Miss Emma Davis has been appointed Sister at the Greek Hospital, Alexandria. She was trained at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum and in the nursing of infectious diseases at the Eastern Hospital, Homerton.

Miss Alice Iremonger has been appointed Sister in the same institution. She was trained at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, and at the Fountain Hospital, Tooting.

NURSE.

Miss Mary Josephine O'Gorman has been appointed Nurse at the first villa and administrative Home for Women, Bangor, under the Edinburgh Lunacy Board.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE.

The appointments of the following ladies as Sisters in the above Service have been confirmed:— Miss E. M. Grattan (Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham), Miss F. M. Bates, Miss S. E. Veale, Miss A. E. Woodruff, Miss H. M. H. Phelan, and Miss A. Stanton (Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar).

Insurance Against Accidents.

We have much pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to a new departure which we have made in their interests. In our advertisement pages will be found a coupon which insures the owner of every copy of this journal for £100 in the event of her death occurring through any accident. We would draw special attention, therefore, to the conditions of the insurance guarantee.

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