

appearance. A jar of vaseline, which took the place of a missing weight, travelled up and down the wall in its daily course, and aided the punctual cuckoo to chronicle the hour."

Since the days when Dr. Conolly advocated and practised what is now called the "humane" treatment of the insane, steady progress has been made in asylums for all classes all over the United Kingdom towards a higher standard of nursing, and this has been noticeably so in the Scottish Asylums, the Medical Superintendents of which, supervised as they are by a board characterised by large views and an absence of conventionalised aims, enjoy greater powers of individual initiative and a freer field for the exercise of progressive methods. Among those in the front rank of these progressivists stands Dr. George M. Robertson, Medical Superintendent of the Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, N.B., who has, during his term of office there, been perseveringly endeavouring to hospitalise his asylum and raise the standard of mental nursing, and with admirable results.

There are now at Larbert five hospital-trained nurses on day duty in charge of as many divisions—three on the female side, and two on the male side. One full half of the staff on the male side of the asylum are women. There is a large night staff of male and female nurses, supervised by a Night Superintendent, who is also a hospital-trained nurse. This system ensures continuous treatment for acute and curable cases, and such control over the chronic ones as will restrain the dehumanising tendencies which were fostered by the old system of locking them up during the night in solitary cells. Since the introduction of these innovations, up to the present there have been two Matrons, one for the female, and the other for the male division; but on the retirement of Miss Gambley, the Matron of the female department, within the last month, Dr. Robertson has been enabled to take another step in advance by the appointment of one Matron over the whole asylum.

Miss E. Satchwell, whose appointment to the Matronship of the male department was but recently notified in the columns of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, has been selected to fill this new and important position. She received her training in general nursing at the London Hospital, and her training in mental nursing at Larbert Asylum. Dr. Robertson is to be congratulated on the complete success he has hitherto attained in the accomplishment of his ideals, and it is to be expected that, with such able assistance as Miss Satchwell will afford him, "Excelsior" will still be the watchword at Larbert.

The Eleventh Annual Conference of the Affiliated Benefit Nursing Associations for the Supply of Cottage Nurses on the Holt-Ockley system was

held last week at 66, Ennismore Gardens, by the permission of Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Gretton. Lord Ancaster, President of the Associations, occupied the chair, and said that the balance-sheet showed a substantial improvement on the previous year. The report stated that during the past year sixty-five women had been placed in training vacancies by the central office. Of those, forty-four had had the whole or part of their training at Bury House, and the others in districts or cottage hospitals. The six women trained through the office in midwifery passed the examination of the London Obstetrical Society. Ninety-five women were placed on the Cottage Nurses' Registry. There were now 138 associations affiliated to the Central Office, and 87 non-affiliated associations—total, 225.

Miss Broadwood, the Hon. Secretary, said that the increase in the number of associations involved increase of work and expenditure, and consequently necessitated further support. A new development this year had been an increase in the number of organising secretaries in the country, an arrangement by means of which much of the work of the central office would be delegated to them, but without separating the affiliated associations from the London office. It was also intended to form a lending staff of nurses—trained cottage nurses who might be lent to newly-started associations until they could provide their own nurses—and the lending staff would be formed in connection with one of their own training homes. Another new departure contemplated was an annual autumnal conference, to be held in a different part of the country each year.

Dr. Boxall spoke of the Midwives' Act and its general effect on nursing associations and the general community. He approved the suggestion that every certificated midwife should have had some general hospital training. He advised that careful selection of candidates should be made, and that the opinion of local medical men should be sought as to their fitness.

The Horsham Guardians have experienced great difficulty in finding nurses for their infirmary. A short time since one was considered suitable, and, after an interview with the Guardians, she was duly appointed. Subsequently, however, a letter was received in which she declined the appointment. At this week's meeting a further communication was received from her, in which she asked for her travelling expenses. The Guardians did not deny their liability, but considered that they also had a grievance, as she had broken her contract, and they thought they were entitled to a month's salary. A letter to this effect was ordered to be sent to the nurse, with the observation that when this amount was received, her travelling expenses would be refunded. It is impossible not to sympathise with the Guardians in such a case as this.

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