

co-operations and institutions; in fact, three years is widely recognised as the minimum period of training for a nurse. The fact that in the past many who are now excellent nurses received a shorter period of instruction does not lessen the soundness of this principle, for many who passed through the curriculum of their day recognise the importance of the three years' standard in the future and are working to obtain its recognition by the State.

Miss McCaul and Miss St. Aubyn have returned from Japan, after visiting the hospitals and studying the nursing methods adopted in them, impressed with the thoroughness of the arrangements made for the care of the sick and wounded, which are, says Miss McCaul, on a most generous and perfect scale. The medical science and nursing skill of the Japanese are fully equal to anything that could have been expected of any European nation.

The war correspondent of the *New York Globe*, writing from Tokio, says that no other nation has so complete and perfect a hospital organisation as Japan. Like everything else connected with the army, it is absolutely perfect. The hospital corps, on March 31st, consisted of the following:—Fourteen surgeons-general, 291 surgeons, 45 apothecaries and pharmacists, 1,920 women nurses, 763 men nurses, 457 cooks, laundresses, and other servants, 2 hospital ships, 469 field stretchers, 398 cases of medicines and surgical instruments, 52,438 beds and cots.

A Reuter message from St. Petersburg relates that during the retreat from Liao-yang, while two Sisters of Mercy were carrying a seriously-wounded private on their shoulders, in the absence of litters, a shrapnel shell killed the man and lacerated the hand and arm of one of the Sisters, who nevertheless assisted to carry the private's body to the graveside. It is sometimes asserted that the days of heroism and devotion on the part of nurses are past. We do not think so. Over and over again experience proves that when need arises the heroism and devotion are there. The present instance is a case in point.

The residents of Buckhurst Hill who have appreciated Nurse MacCarthy's work as a parish nurse for a period of two years, have learned with much regret of the termination of her work. To mark their appreciation, Nurse MacCarthy has been presented with an address and a testimonial in the form of a purse of sovereigns, the gift of 122 subscribers. A large proportion of those who readily contributed were the poorer residents, among whom she has mostly worked. Nurse MacCarthy has attended some 3,561 cases in the course of her two years' connection with the parish.

Nurse Bulcock, of the Ribblesdale Nursing Association, has been presented by a committee of ladies with a silver cream jug, and a case of silver

teaspoons and sugar tongs, on the occasion of her marriage with Mr. Bootham, of Waddington. The presentation was made by Lady Ribblesdale on behalf of the Committee.

The District Coroner (Mr. T. P. Brown) referred recently at an inquest at Keighley to the necessity of hospital nurses attending his inquiries. The head nurse at the Victoria Hospital had, he said, defied him previously, but if he could get up a strong enough case against the lady he would send up three policemen to bring her down to give evidence, because it was her duty to do so. Where the evidence of a nurse was necessary he would go to the extent of issuing a warrant for her appearance. He did not know what had annoyed the lady—whether it was because the County Council had behaved badly to the medical staff by refusing to grant them a fee for attendance at an inquest, or whether she simply wanted to defy the policeman, but he would certainly have her brought as a witness if he thought fit. A jurymen said the Coroner was labouring under a mistake. The wrong nurse had been called in the particular case the Coroner had in view, and that explained the paucity of her evidence. He thought the hospital authorities were always willing to supply whatever evidence they could. A constable stated that the Matron had declared that if it were to be a regular procedure to call nurses as witnesses she should appeal to the directors.

The appeal would inevitably fail, because the law of the land can insist on the presence of witnesses who are able to give evidence relevant to a case. We hope the Matron will understand this. The spectacle of an unwilling nurse being forced to attend a coroner's court escorted by three policemen would scarcely be an edifying one.

A woman member of a hospital committee recently gave the following bit of good advice to a graduating class:—

"I was asked not long since what quality in a woman's life I considered the most valuable. It was asked of me at a luncheon of a society which was celebrating its twenty-fifth or one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary, I don't know which. I looked about me and saw many women who lacked the quality I shall name. I answered 'Repose.' The woman I looked at had such a quality in her face. I remember a young girl who enjoyed life so thoroughly that she buttoned her shoes standing up. This finally meant nervous prostration and a short period in a sanitarium. I remember an old lady who once said, 'I always sit down to fix my hair.'

"So I commend to you that quality which is not idleness—repose! Especially is it needed in professional lives. You will go into many turbulent households where sickness come. May repose come into your own homes—"that peace which passeth all understanding."

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