

Nurses' Association are wisely doing all in their power to improve the knowledge, and also the supply, of gynæcological nurses. At a recent meeting, a communication was received from the Women's Hospital, Melbourne, on the subject. Miss McLean, as representing the Committee, explained the situation and the desires of the Committee. After considerable discussion, in which the Council expressed its sympathy with the Committee, and its willingness to co-operate in settling the difficulty, it was decided to suggest the following:—1. The Association to increase the value of gynæcological training: (a) by making it an essential part of the proposed "Course of Matrons"; (b) by placing on the recognised scale of fees a certain extra fee for gynæcological nurses when attending on gynæcological cases—just as midwifery nurses have a special fee; and (c) by directing the Superintendents of Registered Nurses' Homes that gynæcological nurses should have the call to gynæcological cases. 2. The Women's Hospital to increase the attractiveness of the hospital to gynæcological nurses: (a) by giving each a small fee of, say, £5, instead of levying a fee as at present; (b) permitting gynæcological nurses to decline the midwifery course if they choose, without any financial penalty; and (c) permitting them to attend the midwifery course, if they choose, at a reduced rate compared with others.

The Passing Bell.

With deep regret we record the death on July 1st of Miss Catherine Grace Loch, R.R.C., daughter of the late Mr. George Loch, Q.C.

Miss Loch was widely known in the nursing world, and greatly beloved by a wide circle of fellow-workers, both at home and in India, where her great work in connection with the Indian Army Nursing Service was duly appreciated.

Miss Loch was a pioneer nurse, trained at the Royal Hants County Hospital in 1879-80. She was appointed a Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1882, where she worked and won golden opinions until 1888. In that year, the Indian Army Nursing Service was inaugurated, Miss Loch was appointed Lady Superintendent, and, with some half-dozen colleagues from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, left for India, where by her charming personality and devotion to duty she overcame many difficulties and helped to place this Service on a sound professional basis. In 1891, she received the Royal Red Cross and Indian Medal with "Hazara, 1888" clasp for active service on the frontier. Recent years, owing to ill-health, Miss Loch has spent at home, and as a member of a consulting committee in connection with the India Office has done valuable work in helping to select suitable candidates for the Service of which she was so bright an example.

The Hospital World.

THE CHARITÉ, BERLIN.

The Charité Hospital at Berlin was, we were told, the oldest and most interesting in the city, so needless to say the party of English nurses made their way there, and asked permission to see it. To this the courteous Director, although he must have been astonished at the number of his visitors, kindly acceded, and himself conducted us round the building, explaining at the same time that the old hospital, founded in 1710, had been almost entirely demolished, and that the beautiful new building, which has superseded it, was opened just four weeks ago. The Charité is in connection with the University as a teaching institution, and is united with the Pathological Institute, which attained its present important position under the management of the late Professor Virchow. It has beds for 1,500 patients, and a different department for almost every variety of disease and deformity. The general wards are nursed by Red Cross Sisters of the Clementine Haus of Hanover, while the Children's Hospital is staffed by Sisters belonging to the celebrated Deaconess Institution at Kaiserswerth. The Charité, like the Friedrichshain, stands in spacious and beautiful grounds, and from its verandas one looks down on well-kept gardens and leafy trees, including the sweet-scented birch.

At the Children's Hospital, which we visited first, we ascended to the first floor by a fine spiral staircase—handsome brass work in a bold design of chestnut leaves taking the place of the usual banisters. The decorations of the corridor on which we found ourselves were charming; over one door a spoon and fork indicated the entrance to the ward kitchen, a dust-pan and brush appeared over another, and appropriate symbols indicated the uses of other departments, such as feeding-bottles over the room for sterilising food, and a balloon over the lift. We were told that the noise of the traffic on the terrazzo floors is so great that they are to be covered with linoleum. In the children's wards the cots, twelve in number, were divided by screens, the framework being of white enamel filled in by glass. The object was twofold—to break the noise and to prevent the spread of infection. The bed tables with which the cots were furnished were also of glass. The windows were hung with drill curtains of a golden colour, and the effect was most sunshiny and pleasant. The soiled linen, which was kept in bins standing in the wards, was soaking in lysol.

An arrangement which appeared admirable was a diet tray divided into five compartments for each child, in which meals were served, and by means of which the basins and platters and spoons used by each were kept distinct. In the bath-rooms all the fittings were nickel-plated. We noted a bedside bath of admirable design, also nickel-plated,

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