

We are glad there is a prospect of action by the London County Council. The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, Mr. T. Mackinnon Wood, is interested in the matter, and at his request the Fire Brigade Committee have instructed Captain Hamilton to furnish a Report on the possibility of working a horsed ambulance system in connection with the Fire Brigade.

Miss McCord, Matron of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, has resigned that position in order to take up an important appointment in Italy. Miss McCord, who was trained at the Crumpsall Infirmary, Manchester, has held her present position since 1894, and during her tenure of office, the training of the pupil midwives and monthly nurses has been materially improved, and a convenient and comfortable nurses' home has been built. It is not so long ago since the nurses at this hospital slept in the wards, a condition of things scarcely conceivable by the well housed nurses of to-day.

Hospital Sisters usually receive such slender salaries in relation to their arduous and very responsible work that it is good to find hospitals awakening to the fact that after long service pensions are desirable. The Governors of the Middlesex Hospital considered this matter at the recent Court. A proposal was before it that the Board should be authorised to increase in special cases the pensions of Sisters and nurses by a sum of £2 per head. An opinion was generally expressed that the amount proposed was not sufficient; and ultimately a resolution was unanimously adopted authorising the Board to give a pension in special cases, up to the full amount of their wages, to nurses who had been twenty years in the service of the hospital.

At the last meeting of the Lewisham Board of Guardians, a letter was read from the Local Government Board sanctioning the appointment of Miss Strick as Matron of the Infirmary. The letter concluded with this clause:—"The Board consider it very desirable that certificates of training granted by the Guardians should be properly authenticated by signatures such as those appended to that now granted to Miss Strick; and the action of Dr. Poogood in giving her, in view of her candidature, a certificate of her training on his own authority, and not in the form required of the Guardians, was injudicious." Mr. Kellaway assured the Board that the minority who objected to the appointment as irregular would now loyally support Miss Strick. Mr. Warrington concurred.

This question of the Matron's qualifications would never have occurred had State Registration been in force—a standard would have been attained by all candidates about which no discussion could have arisen. It is well to know that harmony has been again restored at Lewisham—friction amongst

members of the Board is bad for discipline in the Infirmary.

In the case of the death of Lillian Mary Morse, a new probationer at the South Western Hospital, whose services were not retained owing to a previous history of phthisis, the jury at the inquest returned a verdict of "Suicide during temporary insanity."

The Ipswich Nurses' Home, under the superintendence of Miss Enid Newton, who was trained at Guy's Hospital, and was subsequently Lecturer and Instructress in its Pupils' Training School, is doing very satisfactory work. No nurses are now received on the staff who do not hold a three years' certificate of training from a recognised training school. There is also a carefully chosen staff of "cottage helps" who are in demand by those who cannot afford to pay for the services of a fully-trained nurse.

In opening a bazaar at Plymouth recently on behalf of the Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse Ladies' Temperance Association of Nurses at Plymouth, Miss Emily Weston (the sailors' friend) spoke from personal experience at Devonport of the good work done by the nurses, who often rendered the last offices to dying people when others could not be found to do so. They thanked God for those nurses, and she urged all present to assist in providing the very modest stipends they received. It was a grand thing the Plymouth Temperance ladies had done in establishing the nurses amongst them.

We can well believe that in towns such as Plymouth and Devonport there is ample scope for the work of these temperance nurses.

It is regrettable that the Brighton, Hove and Preston District Nursing Association should still have to announce that its expenditure exceeds its income, although the work of Miss Buckle and her staff is of a most devoted nature. The fact does not redound to the credit of a wealthy place like Brighton. At the annual meeting, Alderman E. M. Marx said that the nurses worked very hard paying as many as twelve to eighteen visits, lasting from half an hour to an hour each in a day. They were practically out from 8.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. with comparatively brief intervals for refreshment, and their devotion to duty was highly praiseworthy.

A scheme for ward collections has now been undertaken by Mr. Lionel King; and Mr. Harold Boulton, M.V.O., said he hoped under Mr. King's new scheme they were about to start on a career of increased usefulness and prosperity. As Hon. Treasurer of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, he alluded to the splendid work the nurses were doing all over the country, the loving sympathy which they showed, and the appreciation felt of their work and kindness.

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