

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Miss Florence M. Birkin (not Riskin as reported last week) has been appointed Matron of the Isolation Hospital, Wallingford.

ASSISTANT MATRONS.

Miss Maria Mann has been appointed Assistant Matron at the General Infirmary, Gloucester. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Preston, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at the Park Hospital, Lewisham; Night Sister at the Infirmary, Oldham; and Sister at St. Mary (Islington) Infirmary, London.

Miss S. A. Musson has been appointed Assistant Matron at the West London Hospital, Hammer-smith. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and has held the positions of Sister and Night Superintendent at the Royal Infirmary, Hull; Sister of typhoid wards at Hull Sanatorium; and of Night Superintendent at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, London.

Miss L. E. Roffey has been appointed Assistant Matron at the Ilkley Hospital and Convalescent Home. She was trained at the Middlesex Hospital, and has held the position of Sister at the Reigate and Redhill Cottage Hospital, and of Sister-in-Charge of the Isolation Hospital, Hayley Green, Stourbridge. She has also had experience in private nursing.

NURSES.

Miss C. T. Belton has been provisionally appointed Staff Nurse in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Miss Annie Unwin has been appointed Charge Nurse at the Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford. She was trained at St. Leonard's Infirmary, Shoreditch, where she has held the position of Staff Nurse and holiday Sister.

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

A very pleasant gathering of the members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses took place in the Medical School Library of the Hospital on Saturday last. The members and their guests were received by the President, Miss Isla Stewart, genial and kindly as ever. Two hours were quickly spent in delightful intercourse with friends new and old, and a pleasant feature of the gathering was the presence of the Matron-in-Chief of the Military Nursing Service, and the members of other Leagues. It is unnecessary to say that the tea and coffee and other good things provided were of the excellence we have learnt to expect at these gatherings. The members dispersed reluctantly at length, looking forward to their next merry meeting.

Development of Mental Nursing.

Those nurses who are interested in the better nursing of the insane, and are acquainted with the methods employed in the Stirling District Asylum, watch with interest the work of Dr. G. M. Robertson, its progressive Medical Superintendent, and his staff of able helpers.

Dr. Robertson's Report to the Members of the District Lunacy Board, which appears in its Thirty-Fourth Annual Report shows that the efficient nursing of the insane is an object of constant solicitude with him. Thus we read under the heading—

CARE AND NURSING OF THE INSANE.

Special attention continues to be given to the care and nursing of the insane, and the principles which are followed have been described in previous reports. It is believed that asylum nursing is handicapped in two ways—it inherits bad traditions from the past, when a prison and not a hospital was the prototype of the asylum, and, secondly, there exists a tendency for its methods to become stereotyped because of the conservatism of human nature, and on account of isolation and the consequent absence of effective criticism. All prison-like features, such as physical restraint, locked seclusion, or solitary confinement in rooms by night or by day have been utterly discarded. Constant personal supervision by night and by day is given to all who need it, and the supervision, discipline and methods resemble as closely as is possible those in employment in our general hospitals. At the head of the whole nursing staff of the asylum, attendants as well as nurses, there is the Matron. Immediately under her there are five Assistant Matrons by day who act as Sisters, and are each in charge of a ward or a couple of wards. These, as well as the Matron, are certificated hospital nurses, and the constant presence in the wards, both male and female, of these officials who can be relied upon to maintain discipline, to report misdemeanours, and to set a worthy example, is of inestimable value. Effective supervision is the greatest need of the modern asylum. During the night a sixth Assistant Matron acts as the night superintendent. The only ward which by day alone is not under the supervision of these Assistant Matrons is the industrial block. The patients here are all healthy able-bodied men who need no "nursing," and nearly a half are so quiet and reasonable as to be on "parole." They are looked after by male attendants, who engage and direct their labours on the farm and garden. The male sick and infirm and the feeble generally are nursed and attended on by women as is done in a general hospital. The staff is concentrated in the hospital and admission wards, and the night staff is sufficiently large to give every patient effective supervision, and to abolish locking up patients in single rooms. Quite an appreciable change is coming over the behaviour of the nurses, who are rising to a higher conception of their position and duties, and nine of them obtained the Certificate for Proficiency in Mental Nursing at the May examination. Every endeavour is to be made to encourage the best type of woman to enter the Asylum service, as the failure or the success of every measure designed for the care and benefit of

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