

Municipal Alliance, for the establishment of a General Hospital, on a thoroughly unsectarian basis. About the beginning of October, at a meeting of the former body, under the presidency of the Mayor, a resolution was passed in favour of acquiring West Hill House for the purpose. Immediately afterwards the building was purchased by a local Roman Catholic priest, "for the purposes of a Children's Hospital, with a General Ward for accidents and other emergencies," and he proposes that the hospital shall be supported by voluntary contributions.

The point which concerns us is not a sectarian one, but as it is credibly reported that the nursing staff will consist of an Order of French nuns, expelled from France, who have recently settled in the locality, we would urge the local Orange Lodges to inquire into the professional fitness of the good Sisters for such responsibility. No French Roman Catholic Sisterhoods, as far as we know, can claim that the members of their Orders are "trained" nurses, as we understand the term in England. It is urged further that if the hospital is to be a "free public hospital," maintained by public contributions, the management and staff should be under public control.

This year's annual meeting in connection with the North Staffordshire Infirmary was of a very satisfactory character, although with more money much more good work could be done.

Gratification was naturally expressed at the opening of the new Infirmary Nurses' Home during the year free of debt; £9,665 was subscribed, and £8,088 was expended, leaving a balance in hand of £1,575, which it is proposed to invest, the income being applied towards the cost of maintenance. The annual report stated that the Committee felt "that the carrying out of so successful a scheme was largely due to Mr. A. F. Coghill, who, in addition to his very large contribution to the Building Fund, had generously made a provision whereby a sum of £1,100 would ultimately be received by trustees upon trust to apply the income of that sum towards the cost of maintaining the Home."

The decision to grant a retiring allowance of £30 per annum—upon the motion of Dr. Hatton—to an old and valued member of the nursing staff was not only kind but just; the circumstances entirely justified the step that was taken, though it is not to be regarded as a precedent.

Of late years, under the able superintendence of Miss Helen Pearse, great progress has been made in the better education and training of nurses, and with upwards of 220 beds, often occupied by acute cases, the practical work should make the probationers thoroughly efficient nurses. Indeed, our large county hospitals, to which no medical schools

are attached, are becoming recognised as the best schools in which nurses can gain clinical nursing experience.

Miss Edginton, Matron of the Selby and District Hospital, and daughter of the Rev. W. Edginton, of Newhall, Sheffield, was the recipient, at Barton-on-Humber, of a valuable tea and coffee service, as a recognition of her kindness to a sailor on the Barton sloop *John William*, who was severely injured at Selby on October 6th while delivering corn at Messrs. Kirby's flour mill.

Miss E. H. Grime, Matron at the Dewsbury and District General Infirmary, has tendered her resignation to the House Committee, giving as her reason that the house surgeon has interfered between herself and the nurses. The sub-committee appointed with a view to an amicable settlement of the dispute has failed in its object, and the house surgeon, Dr. R. S. FitzHenry has also sent in his resignation.

At the meeting of the Croydon Board of Guardians, on Tuesday, Dr. B. W. Addison, in accordance with notice given at the previous meeting, moved that the resolution of the Board of September 18th, 1900, be rescinded, and that the Board, therefore, should return to the custom of allowing the Matron of the Infirmary to append her signature to the certificates of probationer nurses on completing their training. Dr. Addison dwelt upon the importance of the subject to the nurses, and said that it would come up at least twice a year so long as their grievance remained. Their petition was prepared entirely on their own initiative. ("Question.") It was no question at all. He challenged any member of the Board to bring proof of any outside influence having been brought to bear upon them. The matter affected their means of living, and that was not pure sentiment, as had been alleged; it meant their bread and butter. They felt that they were being hand-capped. Nurses who left had found the absence of the Matron's signature a detriment. Could any harm, financially or otherwise, come to the Board by replacing it? These certificates were lasting records and testimonials as to proper completion of training, and if a nurse went to the colonies she would be unable to write to the Matron to settle the matter if any question arose out of the absence of the Matron's signature, which, in itself, was evidence of good conduct. He had seen statements in writing from the Matrons and Medical Superintendents of many hospitals and infirmaries, that they considered it a great disadvantage for a nurse not to have the Matron's signature. It might make all the difference during the process of weeding-out applicants for appointments. He had a letter in his pocket from a nurse, stating that she did not feel it any use applying for a post at Bradford

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