

- who are attended as patients outside the hospital, by pupil nurses on their admission to any such hospital, and by midwives on registration;
- (d) Providing for the admission to maternity hospitals of women who are unable to pay the prescribed fees, and for their treatment and attendance as out-patients;
- (e) Regulating the use and non-use of any instrument and drug by midwives, and defining what shall be deemed to be malpractices by midwives;
- (f) Providing for the right of any society or person, on account of the gift or annual subscription of the prescribed amount, to nominate a patient at any maternity hospital free of cost.

Application of Fees.

20. All patients' fees, fees of pupil nurses, and midwives' registration fees, and other moneys received under this Act, shall be paid into the Public Account and form part of the Consolidated Fund.

Registration of Existing Institutions.

21. The Registrar may cause any existing public or private hospital the managers whereof provide to his satisfaction for the instruction of pupil nurses, and comply with all other requirements of this Act and of the regulations made thereunder, to be registered (upon application) as a State Maternity Hospital, and may at any time cancel such registration in the case of any such hospital which fails to continue to comply with such requirements, or any of them.

Presentations.

Miss E. Carpenter Turner was presented on Christmas Day with a silver tea service from past and present members of the nursing staff of the Leicester Infirmary, on her leaving to take up the duties of Matron of the Winchester County Hospital. Miss Turner was trained at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, and the Leicester Infirmary, where she has done most excellent work both as a Ward Sister and, for the last two years, as Assistant Matron, and instructress of the probationers during the preliminary course of training.

The good wishes of her colleagues go with her in her new sphere of work.

Miss Glaholm, of Tweedmount, Melrose, has been presented with a very handsome bowl and gold chain purse in appreciation of four years' valuable work on behalf of the Nursing Association, on the occasion of her marriage with Mr. Waddell, of Palace. There were nearly 100 subscribers connected with the Association. The inscription on the bowl was as follows:—"Presented to Miss Evelyn Glaholm on her marriage, in appreciation of four years' valuable work on behalf of the Roxburghshire Diamond Jubilee Nursing Association."

We regret to record the death of Miss Maude Greenhough Smith, formerly Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, and a Gold Medallist of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. She died while visiting her sister at Seend, at which place she is interred.

Legal Matters.

THE CASE OF NURSE HALL.

In recent issues we have alluded to the case of a patient at the Berks County Asylum who died under circumstances which rendered an inquest necessary. Nurse E. M. Hall has now been arrested on a charge of "killing and slaying Gertrude Elizabeth Harris," and the case has been sent for trial by the Wallingford County Bench. Nurse Hall, who admits an assault, pleads not guilty to the present charge.

We note with surprise that the accused is only twenty years of age, that she has been a nurse at the Berks County Asylum since February last, and that for more than six months she has been on duty in the refractory ward, admitted by a witness in the County Court to be "the most trying ward in the Asylum." In our opinion, the strongest points for the defence are the youthfulness of the nurse, and the long period for which she has been on duty in a ward containing the most trying class of insane patients. A probationer is not, as a rule, accepted in a general hospital, where the work involves much less mental strain, until she is at least twenty-three years of age. To place a girl of nineteen for long hours—and the hours on duty in asylums are notoriously long—for a prolonged period of time in a ward of violently insane persons is to court disaster in the form of nerve break-down, and consequent loss of self-control. In view of the fact that both the Medical Superintendent and the Charge Nurse were of opinion that Nurse Hall had up to the time of the tragedy shown kindness to the patients, we think the counsel for the defence might legitimately press the point that she was manifestly suffering from overstrain, caused by continuous work under most trying circumstances—circumstances which form the very strongest plea for the introduction of women into the scheme of Asylum management, both as members of committees and inspectors. Probably only a woman can fully appreciate the nervous organisation of her sex, or the effect that continued contact with the insane is liable to have upon an immature girl.

THE SUTHERLAND BENEFIT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

We understand that a new and peculiar development has taken place in connection with the Sutherland Benefit Nursing Association superintendentship, and it is expected that legal proceedings will be taken at an early date. The details connected with the points at issue have been fully detailed in previous issues of this journal, and will no doubt be within the memory of our readers.

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