

a note be appended to Forms I., III., IV., and V. of the Rules, drawing attention to Section 12 of the Act, by which a midwife wilfully making any falsification in any matter relating to the Roll of Midwives is guilty of a misdemeanour and liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding twelve months. This was seconded by Dr. Cullingworth, and carried.

The rest of the business was transacted *in camera*. We are officially informed that applications for recognition as teachers from the following gentlemen were approved:—

A. G. Everard, Esq., L.R.C.P., Heaton C. Howard, Esq., M.R.C.S., F. Rees, Esq., M.D., B. A. Eaton, Esq., M.B., E. E. Norton, Esq., M.R.C.S., M. J. Robinson, Esq., M.D., G. de G. Griffith, Esq., M.R.C.S.

The applications of the following certified midwives for approval for the purpose of signing the certificates of attendance on cases, and attendance during the lying-in period were approved in the case of the following ladies:—

Miss Edith Cotsworth, Miss Sarah Grayson, Miss Jane Jessie Rae, Miss Annie Sarah Standfield.

Royal Nurseries at the Quirinal.

Miss McCord, late Matron of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, left London on Monday for Rome in order to take charge, on the invitation of the King and Queen of Italy, of the royal nurseries at the Quirinal. This is a professional compliment which English nurses will appreciate.

The American Nursing World.

The *American Journal of Nursing* says of the "Blue Book," containing the evidence taken last year by the Select Committee on Nursing, that "it is most emphatically so instructive, so important historically, and so interesting that no nurses' library should neglect getting it. The evidence of Dr. Norman Moore and Mr. Sydney Holland deserve special study as monuments of what not to think. These excellent gentlemen are quite unaware that nursing has become more elaborate in detail than it was forty years ago, and that the advance in medical science has at least quadrupled the delicate and complicated details which must be learned by the nurse. We are second to none in our veneration of the pioneers of nursing, but, honouring them as we do, we yet know that the education of the nurse to-day must be vastly different from what it was a half-century back."

Miss M. A. Nutting, of "Johns Hopkins," and Miss Reba Thelin have been elected members of the Council of the Maryland State Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. Miss Thelin has been asked to give a report of her work among tuberculosis patients before one of the medical societies of Baltimore, and Miss Nutting is one of a committee to secure medical inspection of schools.

The first number of the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast*, just issued, is all to the good, as it is "owned, edited, and managed by nurses for nurses." Its aim is to help the good work of uplifting nursing standards by better education and registration. A warm welcome to every journal with this laudable purpose.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



The case of a patient who recently discharged himself from St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and subsequently died shortly afterwards in the Paddington Infirmary, where he was taken by the police and detained, is an interesting one to all concerned in hospital management. The patient was admitted suffering from acute bronchitis; four days later he suddenly got up, began to dress, and announced that he was going to his friends. Both doctors and nurses endeavoured to dissuade him, but as he appeared perfectly rational he was not detained. Later in the day he went to the Paddington Green Police Station, making a manifestly absurd statement as to St. Mary's Hospital. He was taken to the Paddington Infirmary, where he was found to be suffering from acute pneumonia and to be in a dangerous and delirious condition, where he died.

The coroner, Dr. Danford Thomas, said that he could hardly help coming to the conclusion that the man was suffering from delirium in an acute form when he got out of bed at the hospital and insisted on leaving. He would make a special communication to the hospital so that no such laxity should recur, and that it should be made clear to the medical staff that they were legally entitled to detain and restrain any person whose condition indicated an absence of responsibility for his actions.

The point in this case is entirely a medical one—*i.e.*, the decision as to the man's responsibility for his actions. Provided a patient's judgment is in its usual condition, compulsion cannot be put upon him, but if there is any reason to suppose a deviation from the normal, coercion for his own good is a necessity. Short of this, every effort should be made to dissuade a patient who is in a condition to need treatment from discharging himself.

A very satisfactory report was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Notts Nursing Federation held at the Shire Hall, Nottingham, under the Presidency of Colonel L. Rolleston last week. It was stated that during the past year the preliminary steps had been taken for carrying into effect the provisions of the Midwives' Act, and Miss Ross, who for two years had acted as inspector of nurses for the Notts Nursing Federation had been appointed, with the concurrence of the Federation, by the

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