

know, we remarked: "Of course the War Office won't go on building the Millbank Nurses' Home on the present plan," to which we received reply: "Won't it? It is hurrying on the work with a double number of workmen." All the same, we learn the convenience of the Sisters is to receive further consideration.

Great sorrow has been occasioned at the Portsmouth Infirmary by the death of two of the nursing staff, and upon the Medical Superintendent reporting the sad information to the Guardians, the women on the Board spoke earnestly of the overcrowding in the sleeping apartments of the nurses, and urged that the Building Committee should consider the best way to provide more sanitary conditions. It was reported that the Building Committee had already got this matter in hand and was pushing on the question of providing accommodation as quickly as possible.

We heard an amusing story *re* Registration recently. In a large and populous town, where several hospitals exist, the question of holding a meeting to discuss State Registration was advocated by the Matrons of some of them. In the town there was a strong "anti" faction, and to the nursing staff of one of these institutions the Matron said:—"Discuss the matter amongst yourselves and let me know what you wish done." A few days later the nurses approached the Matron to say "they would like to have a meeting to hear more of registration." Imagine their surprise when she indignantly inquired, "And who, I should like to know, has been tampering with you!" It is needless to say that meeting never took place.

We have heard nothing lately of Miss Kate Penn's scheme for providing trained nurses on ocean steamers. In this connection it is interesting to learn that had it not been that two American trained nurses were on board the Cunarder *Campinia*, which was struck by a tidal wave in mid-ocean, the injured passengers would have been totally without trained nursing assistance.

In this serious accident five persons were swept to their death, and forty others badly injured. Fortunately, Miss Mary O'Brien and Miss Grace McCann, who had been spending their vacation in Europe, were returning to the States on the ill-fated liner, and both gave ungrudging and unceasing care to the sufferers till they landed in New York. The ship's officers and other officials of the company expressed their sincere appreciation of the skilled work of these trained nurses.

A Canadian correspondent writes:—

"Within the past year we have had a great influx of 'L.O.S.' nurses, and there is a very antagonistic feeling towards them amongst the graduates here, because quite the majority of those saving they possess

'L.O.S.' certificates are very uneducated, and in fact what we would call the 'servant' class of old country women. So far both the doctors and graduate nurses class them amongst the untrained, and as I am often asked about the standing of these nurses in England, I would be glad to know more about it. From experience of those I have met they do not appear to have any right to be classed as nurses at all. In Canada, in our best schools, every probationer learns practical obstetric nursing and midwifery in lying-in wards either attached to general hospitals or in special hospitals—it is included in their three years' training. We do not understand the 'L.O.S.' system and certificate."

The London Obstetrical Society is a medical society which, for a considerable number of years, held an examination in midwifery, and conferred a certificate on such persons as passed its examination. Although trained nurses have taken that certificate, no evidence of nursing knowledge was requisite. The applicant for examination had merely to show that she had attended twenty labours under supervision. She need never have been inside a general hospital, or even of a maternity hospital, at all, as some candidates obtained their experience in the homes of the poor, under the supervision of a midwife. No length of training was defined by the Society, but the usual period was three months. It might be less if the candidate could attend the requisite number of cases in a shorter time. Now that the Central Midwives' Board, which is constituted by Act of Parliament, has instituted an examination, that of the London Obstetrical Society is discontinued. Its certificate does not imply that the possessor is a trained nurse.

### Tribute to the late Miss Graeme.

The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the Perth Sick Poor Nursing Society in reference to the late Miss Graeme:—

"The Directors of the Perth Sick Poor Nursing Society desire to place on record their deep sense of the great loss sustained, not only by them but by the whole community of Perth, in the death of the late Lady Superintendent of the Society. During the past eleven years Miss Graeme brought all the energies of a skilled training and refined nature into the service of the suffering poor of the city. She was ever ready to place her gifts at the service of the humblest members of the community; no summons on her aid was ever chilled by delay; no unpleasant task was ever avoided; no duty, however onerous or exacting, was left unfulfilled. There was a total absence of fuss or ostentation in all that she did, and those who knew her best were aware that it was the outcome of a profoundly religious character, which looked not to man but to God for its reward. Many have been far more in the world's eye than the late Miss Graeme, but it will be long ere the poor of the city forget the patient toiler who went in and out of our streets and lanes intent only on her task of bringing relief to the suffering."

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