

from working with good nurses. Before they were employed the training for the students was very bad, because the patients were never nursed; everything was slipshod, dirty, and untidy. It was not at all a good preparation for their after work. But when they saw that in poor houses the nursing could be carried out with care and cleanliness it was a real help to them, and a guide for them when in practice later on.

The serious fire which occurred at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, on Saturday last, broke out in much the same position as that which occurred two years ago at that institution. Fortunately the fire occurred in the operating theatre, and, though the patients in the women's wards nearest to the outbreak were rapidly removed from the burning building to a place of safety, none of them were injured, although some were quite panic-stricken while being removed by the emergency staircase outside the hospital.

Both the nurses and women servants gave admirable service, the former in removing and reassuring the patients, and, together with the domestic staff, in dragging the hose into position, braving torrents of water in the corridors while clearing the women's wards.

Miss Edith Mawe, Hon. Lady Superintendent of the Royal West of England Sanatorium—situated in a beautiful old Tudor-looking building at Weston-super-Mare—has been elected a Vice-President of the institution which she has practically "made" since she took charge more than ten years ago. Whereas ten years ago 600 patients a year were received, now the annual influx is nearly 3,000. The Sanatorium is not only popular with patients, but in the town, as between £3,000 and £4,000 is spent annually, every penny of which enriches Weston. Much used to be spent in London, but since Miss Mawe has acted as Hon. Superintendent she has been able to cater for the institution more economically, at the same time encouraging local trade. The year just past has been a splendid one financially, the Sanitation debt of £1,583 has been paid off, and there is money in hand to build the new Nurses' Home for the greater comfort of the nursing staff. It is, indeed, refreshing to read of charitable institutions conducting their affairs on sound business lines; but then it is not every Lady Superintendent who can afford to give cheques for £100 from her privy purse when funds are low.

At the recent annual general meeting of the contributors of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Miss E. S. Haldane and Mrs. George Kerr were re-elected to the Board of Managers. Miss Haldane is a sister of the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, K.C., Secretary of State for War, and her work on "Descartes: His Life and Times," recently published, is a book to read. Miss Haldane is a Vice-President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses—a question she thoroughly understands.

Dr. Alexander Robertson, of Glasgow, suggests in the local press that the Biblewomen attached to the various Churches should also act as nurses in the districts, he thinks they would not clash with the trained district nurses, and he says:—"The training required for this work would be very simple, and might be given in the course of ten days or a fortnight. It could be arranged that the matron, or assistant matron, or even a senior nurse in one or other of our hospitals, perhaps preferably the one for children, should give the necessary instruction."

The London Biblewomen and Nurses' Society have found after years of experience that a thorough training is necessary to qualify their workers for their duties, and we hope the Churches of Scotland, in providing nurses for their poor people will see to it that they have the necessary experience. Otherwise, far better leave the sick to the care of Queen's Nurses.

With the following paragraph in Dr. Robertson's letter we are in entire sympathy:—

"In another way this Church order of nurses might prove useful to the community. Assume that they are supplied with copies of instructions for the prevention of consumption issued conjointly by the Sanitary Office and the Tuberculosis Council, which, I am sure, would be most willingly given to them, they might non-officially advise as to the carrying out of these counsels where required, and thus lend a helping hand in the crusade against consumption."

Mrs. Sinclair, the deeply respected Matron of Belvidere Fever Hospital, at Glasgow, has, owing to her advancing years, intimated her resignation. In respect of her long and faithful services, extending over thirty years, it is proposed to grant her a retiring pension. We hope it will be a generous one.

At a recent meeting of the Glasgow Parish Council a minute from the Barnhill Hospital

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)