

the South African War, where she had received a kick from a horse. Cross-examined as to which side she was on, after some hesitation she said she served with the German forces. Pressed as to whom she served with, as she could not be unofficial, Miss Coates thought for a few minutes and then said in a subdued voice "It is all imagination on my part." We should think that the statement that she is a trained nurse is imagination also.

At a recent meeting of the Newport Guardians the question of the payment of probationer nurses was considered. Mr. Basham said he was not satisfied with the candidates and that it was time the whole position was considered. They could not get the proper class of person at fourpence a day. It was pointed out that the Board used to pay more, but it was thought that if the payment was reduced they would obtain a better class of young woman not dependent on their pay.

The question is really not what the Guardians pay their probationers but what education they offer them. If the professional training given enables the probationers to rank well in the nursing world subsequently the question of pay is a secondary matter, but probationers cannot be expected to work for fourpence a day if they do not receive the equivalent of adequate remuneration in sound professional instruction.

A most successful Drawing Room Meeting was held last week at Lauriston House, Wimbledon, the residence of Mr. Arthur Fell, M.P., one of the supporters of the Bill for the Society of State Registration on behalf of the Surgical Hospital for Gentlewomen.

Sir Wroth Lethbridge who took the chair, stated that since their first public meeting in March rapid strides had been made, and that they had now the support of many influential people and that large sums had been promised them. The Duchess of Marlborough was forming a Ladies' Committee and a Drawing Room Meeting was shortly to meet at her house. It was suggested that ladies should undertake to provide the linen, which for 100 patients and a large staff of nurses and domestics, would prove a large item.

Dr. Wolfenden then said that much had been done for the poor, but so far very little for gentlewomen with slender means; many died slow, lingering deaths sooner than go into hospitals, many wives and mothers suffered from ill-health, when a slight operation would

make them well, but such an operation might cost their husbands their whole year's income were they to go into surgical homes. He was aware that one or two such institutions existed, but they were small and always full. The main point about this scheme was that it was going to be run on a large scale, with all the up-to-date operating and nursing requisites, and that once the money is raised, there will be no further need to call on the public. The average fee would be £3 3s., but many deserving cases would be admitted free of charge, for it is hoped that the patients in private wards, where the ordinary surgical home fees will be charged, will help support their less fortunate fellow sufferers, drawn from the same social stratum as themselves—with smaller purses.

One of the ladies suggested that many rich women would not like to come to a hospital, which was partly a charity. The answer was that this hospital was meant for gentlewomen. Gentlewomen of means, it was hoped would not mind being in the same establishment as others of equal birth with slenderer purses. In return they would feel that they were getting all the benefits of a properly equipped hospital and that every farthing of profit made was going to help support those of their own class less blessed with the goods of this world. At the end of the meeting a local ladies' committee was formed.

Nurse Hearn, who was recently appointed to a post at the Plymouth Infirmary, wrote asking the Guardians whether they would pay her fare from Landport, Hampshire, so that she might look at the place before taking up the appointment. She had several times been taken in before, and she thought a personal interview would be beneficial to both parties. It was eventually decided to acquaint the nurse that the Guardians could not comply with her request and ask her whether or not she intended taking up the duties. We agree with Nurse Hearn that an interview is desirable, but it should be before, or at the time of appointment, not after. If a nurse applies for and is appointed to a post she should take it up.

The Venerable Archdeacon of Ferns recently presided at the Annual Meeting of the friends and supporters of the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin. The Report stated that the Alexandra Nurses' Home is now an invaluable adjunct to the hospital and a source of special comfort to the nurses, accommodates hospital staff nurses 43, out-nursing staff 32—altogether, 75.

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