

Hospital; Williams, Ada May, C. St. A. Farrer; Williams, Catherine Mary, General Lying-in Hospital; Williams, Jane Letitia, W. L. Christie; Williams, Marion Alice, General Lying-in-Hospital; Williams, Sarah, C. St. A. Farrer; Wood, Meggie, General Lying-in Hospital; Woodbridge, Laura, W. H. Whitehouse; Woodford, Mary Ann, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Wormald, Mary, Rotunda Hospital; Worters, Edith Maud, General Lying-in Hospital.

Y.—Yorke, Eleanor, Maternity Charity, Plaistow. Candidates examined, 376; passed, 300; percentage of failures, 20.2.

G. W. DUNCAN, Secretary.

The Analysis of Training Schools will be published next week.

"A Superstitious Tale."

Nurse B. had always been looked upon as a strong, healthy girl. She was bright and lively, and full of energy; a great favourite in the hospital, both with patients and nurses, and the Matron and Sisters thought her quite the "bright and shining light" of the nursing staff, and were sorry when the time came for her to leave the wards and go on the private staff of the hospital. She had a cold when she started for her first case, "not enough to make me interesting," she laughingly said, and under the iron rule of the Matron it was a brave woman who would complain of small ailments. The nurses were not expected to "knock up," and consequently sometimes laid the seeds of serious illness for want of early attention.

A day or two after Nurse B. went out to her case, the patients in Ward V., where were only three beds, were much agitated at seeing a black and white pigeon settle on the window sill. None knew whence it came, as there did not appear to be any of these birds kept within many miles of the hospital. Strangely enough, in that part of the world, there was a superstition that a bird on the window-ledge or in the room brought bad luck and that a death would shortly happen in that place. For this reason the country patients begged the nurses to drive it away, and this was done frequently without effect, the pigeon as persistently returning to his post and now and again giving voice to a melancholy coo-coo.

At last, one morning, away he flew and for a few hours there was peace and a feeling of satisfaction abroad in the ward. Alas! for how short a time! in the afternoon word came to move all the patients into the big ward and to prepare No. 5 for Nurse B.

Gently and tenderly she was carried in, her pretty hair tossed about and her bright feverish eyes all unknowing those around her.

Like many another nurse she had dis-

regarded her own health and in nursing an old man night and day through pneumonia following influenza, had herself caught the insidious complaint, and was brought back to her old training school too late. Hour after hour Matron, Sister and nurse battled with the illness, and day by day her strength failed, and through all the superstition of the patients seemed to be constantly in their minds: "Sister drive it away, it brings bad luck." They could not laugh at it as a superstition, they felt he had brought ill-luck, and that the bright girl would never more liven up the hospital.

The strangest thing of all was that from the time of her admission to the ward, though she had had no communication with any one from the hospital while at her case and no means of hearing of the pigeon, her delirious ravings were all about "That bird," "What does he want?" "Do take him away," and so the muttering went on till near the end of the third day, when the voice became quiet, and those about her knew they need work no more.

"A coincidence," many will say; "nothing at all in it." Still the fact remained, and I who am writing this tale can vouch for the truth of it, for I was one who nursed her, and knew that in no possible way could she even have heard of the bird, for he had flown away some hours before she came into hospital.

K.

Who Was Wrong?

Dramatis Personæ.—Chairman, Matron, Nurse.

Scene I.—The Ward.

Male Patient: "Nurse, I want a drink of water."

Nurse (in a hurry): "Then you'll have to wait."

Chairman, who is in ward and overhears reply, remonstrates with nurse, who attempts to justify herself.

Scene II.—Matron's Office.

Chairman reports nurse to Matron. She is sent for and confronted with his official complaint. Nurse explains that request was only refused for the moment.

Finale.

Nurse discharged without certificate, within three weeks of completing her three years' training. Chairman later publicly quotes circumstance of case in justification of "sacking the nurse."

Will our readers say who was wrong, and why?

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