

Nursing Echoes.

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Queen's nurses who have received their district training at the Central Home, Bloomsbury, during the past seven years will hear with much regret of the resignation of Miss M. Kent.

Miss Kent received her general training at Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, her maternity training at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, and her district training at Bloomsbury. She is certified by the Central Midwives' Board. She was appointed Staff Nurse at the Central Training Home, Bloomsbury Square in 1899, and when the staff was reorganised by the present Superintendent, Miss Kent was appointed as her assistant, a post which she has held with unflinching loyalty to the Superintendent and Committee, who received her resignation with many expressions of regret.

Miss Kent is retiring altogether from nursing, for family reasons. She is succeeded at Bloomsbury by Miss Exton, late Senior Nurse at Kensington.

The distinguished physician and surgeon says the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* were discussing an abstruse point concerning nerve distribution, whilst whiling away the time in the out-patient room. "Nurse," called the latter, "would you go to the resident's room and bring back Osler's *Medicine*, please." The nurse was gone rather a long time and returned empty-handed. "There's only one bottle of medicine there," she said, "and the name on the label is not Osler."

The sad death of a medical man in St. Thomas' Home (connected with St. Thomas' Hospital) recently, points once more to the necessity for keeping patients under constant observation. The patient in question was found dead, death being due to asphyxia from strangulation. The nurse on duty at the time stated at the inquest that the patient had been under her care since she had been on night duty. He was very restless on Tuesday night,

and in the morning when she took in his breakfast she found that he was not in his bed. She was told by another patient that he was asleep in another room. She went there and found him dead. Dr. Hedley, the resident medical officer of the Home, stated that the deceased was suffering from a swelling of both wrists, which was due to gout. He was expected to be quite well again in a few weeks. He had restless nights, and was given drugs to induce sleep. The jury returned a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane.

Another death was recently reported of a patient with known suicidal tendencies, who had two nurses—one a certified woman and the other a male nurse. The patient asked to be left alone, and his wish being complied with the report of a gun was heard from the smoking room, and the patient was found dead, having shot himself through the head. The jury returned a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity, and, apparently, made no comment on the fact that a suicidal patient, who was provided with two nurses, should have been left alone.

The father of one of the probationers working in the Chichester Poor Law Infirmary, wrote recently to the *Guardians* giving six months' notice on his daughter's behalf. The letter complained that no lectures were given by the medical officer, and also pointed out that the probationer "did not enter the services of the *Guardians* to look after lunatics," one of whom, it was alleged, had kicked and bitten her. A discussion ensued, some members of the Board considering that probationers should be held to their three years' contract if they elected to sign it at the end of a month's trial. It was pointed out that the Board promised to give lectures to the probationers but that there was no contract with the medical officer to give such lectures, and any he gave were entirely gratuitous service. Mr. Holt thought the writer had some cause of complaint, and Mrs. Webb was of opinion that the training of probationers should be put on a better basis. If the probationer in question was made aware that this was going to take place, she would not, perhaps, wish to leave. It was ultimately decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Visiting Committee, to hold an inquiry into the training of probationers. *Guardians* certainly should realise that if they wish to hold probationers to their agreements they themselves must fulfil their part of the contract, and if they undertake that lectures shall be given must make due provision for their delivery.

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