

The King's Hospital Fund.

The Prince of Wales presided on Monday last, at a meeting at Marlborough House, of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

The Committee will this year distribute £110,000 amongst the London Hospitals, which is £10,000 more than last year.

The Report of the Hospitals Distribution Committee read by Sir William Church, stated that the Committee are pleased to observe considerable reduction in the cost per bed of a number of Hospitals where the expenditure was formerly considered too high. Though much still remains to be done, the Committee commend to public attention the general efforts being now made by the Hospitals in the direction of economy.

The details of the awards to the different hospitals were read by Sir Savile Crossley, the following hospitals being commended for economical management, or for efforts to reduce expenditure. The Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich; Guy's Hospital; The Hospital for Consumption, Brompton; the London Hospital; the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, N.E.; the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road; the Tottenham Hospital, and the West Ham and East London Hospital.

THE TEACHING OF NURSING.

Of most importance to nurses is Clause 9 of the Report:—

"The attention of the Committee has been called to the extensive arrangements for teaching nursing at Hospitals; and while not wishing in any way to disparage work so obviously advantageous to the public, it may become necessary to consider to what extent expenditure is incurred for nursing beyond the requirements of the nursing service of each Hospital."

In this connection we must point out to nurses, as we have done on previous occasions, that their interests are unrepresented on the Governing Body of the King's Fund. Although women subscribe to the Fund, form the greater part of the staffs of hospitals both as nurses, and on the domestic side, as well as a considerable portion of the patients, and though nursing and domestic management are departments in which women excel, they are entirely excluded from participation in the management of the Fund, and we unhesitatingly say that the General Council, as at present constituted, has not the necessary expert knowledge to enable it to deal effectively with nursing matters. Moreover, nurses must realise that if such questions as the amount of their salaries and kindred matters are dealt with by the Council of the Fund, this will be done entirely by their employers, the workers having no opportunity of expressing their views. This is a very dangerous economic position for disfranchised women, and, in justice to all concerned, before the consideration of nursing questions is undertaken by the Council of the King's Fund it should add to its members women of recognised ability in domestic and nursing matters.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales stated in the course of his speech that it has been determined to apply to Parliament for a short Act to incorporate

the Fund and place its administration on a legal basis and that as soon as the necessary statutory powers are obtained it may be necessary to consider the constitution of the Council and of the Committees, so that this would be an opportune moment to consider the inclusion of women on the Council and the adequate representation of nursing interests. We sincerely hope this may be done.

Midwifery Notes.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The following is the Examination Paper set to candidates for the certificate of the above Board at its examination, held in London, on December 12th:—

1. How do you recognise a transverse presentation during labour, and how would you treat it until the arrival of medical assistance?

2. You are called to a patient in labour at full term. The head is flexed, and the fetus lying in the first vertex position. The os uteri is fully dilated, and the pains are strong. Three hours later the head has not entered the brim. What is the duty of the midwife according to the rules of the Central Midwives' Board, and what dangers might arise from neglect to observe these rules?

3. How do you deal with a case of post-partum hæmorrhage after the expulsion of the placenta?

4. Describe in detail your conduct on your first visit to a patient after her confinement.

5. Describe in detail your procedure in passing the catheter on a lying-in woman. What harm may be done to the patient by neglect of the necessary precautions?

6. What are the chief points to be observed in the management of a premature infant during the first week of its life?

The circumstances of the death of Miss Emily Tibworth, a certificated nurse, at the Convent of Poor Clares in Cornwall Road, Notting Hill were the subject of an enquiry to the Deputy Coroner for West London on Tuesday. Miss Tibworth went to the convent a year ago in her professional capacity, and remained with a view to entering the Order, but had been informed that she was unsuited to do so. Medical evidence showed that death was due to syncope from rupture of the heart.

Amongst the last women Suffragists to go to Holloway Gaol, for their political convictions on the Woman Suffrage question is Miss Olivia Smith, a trained nurse, who appeared in uniform before Mr. Horace Smith at Westminster Police Court on Tuesday.

It is, unfortunately, so often our duty to chronicle the appearance of a nursing uniform in a police court in connection with persons charged with criminal offences that it is with pleasure we record its appearance in so honourable a cause. Miss Smith stated in court that her line of action was intended as a protest against government by men alone.

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