

nurses being but human, cannot do both day and night duty. The sooner public opinion can be brought to bear on this point the better.

The question of nurses' long hours is at the root an industrial one; shorter hours mean the employment of more nurses, and more nurses mean greater expense. Where women's labour, which is unorganised, and has always been cheap and plentiful, is concerned, to incur greater expense in order to secure better conditions for the worker seems to many persons quite unnecessary.

The Rugby District Nursing Association has decided that for visits paid by the district nurses of the Association in their spare time to people in better circumstances than those for whom their free attendance is intended, fixed charges shall be made, modifications of which must be at the discretion of the Working Committee. The charges agreed on are—operations 10s., single visit 2s. 6d., and 1s. per visit for a series of visits. It was further agreed that the maternity fee for all cases should henceforth be 10s.

After the recent terrible railway accident at Elliot Junction, near Arbroath, until medical aid could be procured, Nurse Duncan, of Edinburgh, and Mrs. Laing, wife of Dr. Laing, of Arbroath, worked heroically in rendering assistance to the injured. Many of these were subsequently removed to the Arbroath Infirmary.

A short time since, owing to an accident at Widnes Station, Mr. George Pheysey was taken to the local hospital where it was found necessary to amputate both arms at the shoulder. He was devotedly nursed by Miss Harvey. Patient and nurse are now married, and Mrs. Pheysey intends to work both for herself and her husband.

On the occasion of the opening of the new wing of the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin, Sir James Murphy said that he had no hesitation in saying that, although the Governors and the ladies who attended had by their generous efforts contributed greatly to the success of the hospital, it never could have reached its present usefulness were it not for the able medical gentlemen under whose skill it had so prospered from the beginning. This remark also applied to the Lady Superintendent, because the Lady Superintendent superintended the nurses much as the Medical Superintendent directed the staff and the students.

An Expression of Thanks.

Dr. Washington Isaac, 75, Gower Street, W.C. (late Hon. Physician, Nurses' Hostel), begs through the medium of this Journal, to thank the nurses (sixty-seven) of the Nurses' Hostel, North and South Blocks, and the Nurses' Lodge, Colloseum Terrace (late of the Nurses' Hostel), for the silver rose-bowl presented to him on Christmas morning, as a token of their appreciation of his services whilst their honorary physician.

Legal Matters.

A case of interest to medical practitioners and nurses is one recently reported from South Africa, in which a medical man (Dr. Archer Isaac, of Molteno, Cape Colony), sued Mrs. Alice Ridley, a registered nurse and the proprietress of a private hospital at the same place, for twelve guineas medical attendance rendered, and for nine guineas (less £1 11s. waived to bring the case within the jurisdiction of the R. M.) as damages sustained through his being forced to dress and attend a case on nine occasions in a ward infected with small-pox. The plaintiff's case was that the defendant engaged him to operate on a case of hydatid cyst of liver in her hospital, for the fee of ten guineas, and he put in a fee of two guineas for the anaesthetist. The circumstances under which damages were alleged were that, owing to a disagreement about another case, Mrs. Ridley refused to attend to the hydatid patient, and forced him to do the dressings himself, which, as the patient had in the *interim* contracted small-pox, involved him in much trouble in personal disinfection, and in loss of practice. The defendant admitted the ten guinea fee and one guinea for the anaesthetist, but denied the rest of the claim. She was supported by Dr. Robertson, of Sterkstroom, in her contention that it was no part of her duty to dress the case after operation. Eventually Dr. Isaac withdrew his claim for damages, and a verdict was given for twelve guineas, with costs.

The Passing Bell.

We regret to record the death of Miss Martha Symons, a nurse, who was engaged at a house in Grove Road, Brixton, to nurse a patient suffering from pneumonia. Early one morning she was found standing on the staircase with her clothing in flames and screaming for help. Before the flames could be extinguished her clothes had been practically burned away. She died from the shock.

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