

and quoted to friends and neighbours as evidence of care on the part of an institution, and add greatly to its reputation amongst the class which it serves. From this point of view alone time and thought spent on the mortuary arrangements are well expended.

At a recent meeting of the Swansea Hospital Board, Colonel Morgan said that since August not one of the night nurses had had a single day's holiday, and the Matron had told him she could not release them for some time yet. The Chairman (Mr. D. W. Hughes) said he would rather face the music at the Council meeting for increasing the expenditure by engaging more probationers than explain to the community why they were overworking the nurses. It was nothing but sweating. He was actually ashamed of himself. The Matron, in her report, stated that the monthly day off or night off had frequently not been given, and she was still being called upon to give last year's holidays. She also pointed out that while most people have one day's rest in seven, the nurses were working seven days a week. They had one day a month off, and 14 days a year, making a total of 26 days a year. Now that the facts have been placed before the Committee, we feel sure they will not allow these conditions to continue.

A special meeting of the Council of King Edward's Fund for Nurses in Ireland, was held at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, last week, Mr. Andrew Beattie, D.L., in the chair. There were also present: Sir Andrew Reed, K.C.B.; Mr. Richard Dowse, Hon. Sec.; Miss Kelly, President Irish Nurses' Association, Lady Superintendent Steevens' Hospital; Miss Ramsden, Lady Superintendent Rotunda Hospital; Miss M. E. MacDonnell, Secretary. Miss M. E. MacDonnell, owing to going abroad, tendered her resignation as secretary, which was accepted with much regret. Miss MacDonnell was requested to hold office until her successor was appointed. An application for further assistance was received from a nurse member who had been given a grant of £10 in 1906. After careful consideration of the circumstances a second grant of £10 was given in order to help her over a tedious convalescence after operation.

Wedding Bells.

Miss M. Saw, who for over seventeen years has held the position of Matron at the Hertford Convalescent Home, St. Leonards, is about to be married to Mr. T. B. Allnutt, J.P., of Basingstoke.

Legal Matters.

BREACH OF CONTRACT.

In the Bournemouth County Court last week, Miss Agnes Houlton, a masseuse and nurse, brought an action to recover £6 15s. 8d. from Mrs. Naphorn, of the Dowsing Electrical Institute, for breach of contract. Her solicitor stated that soon after she took up the appointment, she was asked to sign an agreement not to carry on business or act as a nurse within a radius of 20 miles of Bournemouth. As that was not part of her agreement, she refused to sign the document. If the prohibition had been confined to her acting as an electrical nurse, she would not have objected, but she did not think it should apply to her general nursing. She came prepared to sign an agreement containing the former restriction. After hearing the case for the defence, his Honour was of opinion that the agreement the plaintiff had been asked to sign went beyond the terms of her engagement, and gave judgment for her for £5 0s. 8d., with costs.

DESCRIBED AS NURSES.

Since our last issue most unpleasant prominence has been given in the Press to the doings of women described as nurses.

Nesta Swift, who was charged with theft at Marylebone, has been committed for trial.

A woman named Firminger, described as a nurse, brought an action for damages at the Winchester Assizes against a patient for assault and wrongful dismissal, making the most gross charges, as detailed by the *Hampshire Chronicle*, but failed to come into Court to substantiate them. They were the more cruel because the patient was totally blind, and also paralysed. From enquiries made on behalf of the defendant, after the action had been brought, it was ascertained that the statements made by Mrs. Firminger in order to obtain the situation were false, and that she entered the service of the defendant representing herself as a widow with one child, although she had had illegitimate children, and her husband was still living. The Judge said it was clear that if the charges made by the plaintiff were true, any decent woman would have left the house at once. She brought these charges, but would not go into the box to support them. He could only draw one conclusion, and he supposed everyone else would do the same, that they were absolutely unfounded. He dismissed the action.

The danger to the public of women who obtain positions of trust by means of false statements is evident, as is also the consequent importance of an authoritative State Register of Trained Nurses.

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