

what corresponds to a Nurses' Home. Retirement is compulsory at 65, and may be required at 60, and the pension given is in proportion to the length of service at Civil Service rates. On marriage there is usually a gratuity given, if six years' good service has been accomplished. The age for entering the service is from 22 to 36, and the candidate must, of course, be in vigorous health. An elementary examination has to be undergone before the Civil Service certificate is obtained, which qualifies the candidate to take up a post. Any other particulars can be had by applying to the Secretary of the Prison Commissioners, 11, Rutland Square, Edinburgh.

Enough has been said to show that on the pecuniary side this service compares favourably with the ordinary nursing service, and that at the same time it provides scope for an interesting, if often painful, line of work. There is nowhere, one would imagine, where the individual has more power for good or evil over her fellow creatures than here where they are for the time being helpless in her hands; and though some may be hardened beyond hope, there must also be many who are susceptible to good influences in a way they never were before.

E. S. HALDANE.

Lady Dudley's Nursing Scheme.

At a recent meeting of the Committee of Lady Dudley's Nursing Scheme, held in Dublin, a collection made by the Earl of Shaftesbury, for the establishment of a nurse at Derrybeg, co. Donegal, was received and gratefully acknowledged. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the members of the "Amateur Dramatic Company," by whose efforts, in giving performances of "La Cigale," the fund benefited to the extent of £132. The Committee had also to acknowledge, with many thanks, receipt of £24 from Lady Crofton as a collection in Co. Sligo. Several applications for nurses to be established under Lady Dudley's Nursing Scheme were received, but the Committee were unable to make arrangements for any further enlargement in the number of nurses until more funds are at their disposal. After the transaction of routine business the Committee adjourned.

The Secretary of the Lady Dudley's Nursing Scheme for the Establishment of District Nurses in the Poorest Parts of Ireland will be grateful for any contributions of old linen, underclothing for men or women, and books, which should be sent to her at 30, Molesworth Street, Dublin.

The Ruchill Hospital Inquiry.

The Local Government Board inquiry into the administration of Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, was continued daily last week. At the close of Friday's proceedings, Sheriff Crawford intimated that the evidence was completed, and that the Commissioners would report to the Local Government Board. The most important points in the evidence were as follows:— *Tuesday, February 4th.*

SISTER M'LENNAN alleged that it was impossible, for want of a sufficient staff, to give the patients the treatment ordered by the resident doctor. She did not tell the doctor this. They were forbidden to do so on pain of instant dismissal. The Matron gave an address on September 27th to that effect.

The address alleged to have been given by the Matron to the Sisters was subsequently drawn up by all the Sisters present.

The Address.

"I wish to talk to you sisters as my subordinates. Ever since I came to this hospital I have continually had complaints about the under-staffing and the overworking of the nurses. That in future has to stop. I have now come to the end of my endurance. I am mistress of Ruchill Hospital. I have now got the power, and I mean to wield it. I find there is one hour wasted for lunch in the wards, and in future there will be no lunch either in the wards or in the dining-hall, and that will be at least one hour saved which you will be able to devote to your work. Your whole time is to be devoted to the work of the wards and the training of your probationers, and the reading of novels I strictly forbid. I find that the sisters take no interest in their wards. I find the linen in a disgraceful condition. I myself have had to go to the laundry and send the draw-sheets to the sewing-room. I will have no medical officer interfering with me or my nursing arrangements. I am mistress of Ruchill Hospital. My power is absolute. I will staff the wards with what I like and with whom I like, and no nurse must tell the doctor she cannot manage with the staff I give on pain of instant dismissal. If the doctor asks any sister or nurse how long a nurse has been in the hospital, refer him to the matron. If any doctor comes to me with any complaint, I will find out who has told him, and she will be instantly dismissed. If you find you require an extra nurse, come to me and I will consider it. No medical officer has any power under the sun. If I hear of anyone discussing my nursing arrangements inside or outside the hospital she will be instantly dismissed. I hold the sisters responsible for the tidiness of the nurses and maids, and also for their attitude towards me and my assistants. Going into the wards, I find you disloyal, insubordinate, and cowardly. The sisters make the balls, and get the probationers to fire them. I expect you to comply with my rules, those of you who wish to remain here, and those of you who do not, I will accept your resignations. Have any of you anything to say? I will give you till to-morrow morning to consider it. I have nothing more to say. You can go."

It must be remembered that this address was

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