

Infirmatory wards for many years, and no accident had happened hitherto. However, the Coroner was now assured that, though it would entail considerable inconvenience, all poisons used in the establishment would in future be locked away out of the reach of patients. The jury returned a verdict that death was due to taking the poison, but that there was no evidence to show why deceased had drunk it.

One of the most important results of a State defined standard of nursing would be that lay hospital committees would no longer follow their own sweet wills in the appointment of Matrons and Superintendents of Nursing. Women who can neither speak nor write the King's English correctly would not be placed as Principals of teaching establishments such as Schools for Nurses. This has been done even of late years, greatly to the disadvantage of pupils and the standing of the nursing.

We are urged to make these remarks owing to the friction which has arisen in two Irish hospitals over the recent appointments of Matrons. After a candidate has been selected by the Boards of Management—either members of the medical staffs or of the Board have made objections, which objections have been widely circulated in the press, resulting in placing the ladies selected in a most difficult position, especially in relation to their subordinate nursing staffs. How is it possible to maintain discipline in any hospital where either the medical staff, or members of the Board, publish that in their opinion the Matron is not properly qualified to perform her duties, and that through influence she has been appointed over the heads of candidates her superior in knowledge and capacity?

In the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service all Sisters have now to pass an examination before being promoted to the position of Matron, and in Victoria the Matrons' Certificate (after examination) is now practically essential in order to obtain a Matron's post. It is high time we had such a test in the United Kingdom. The old haphazard system of selection is like buying a pig in a poke.

In the recent issue of the *Kingston Infirmatory Nurses' League Journal* there is a charming frontispiece, of the sweetest old lady in bed, her cap a picture. "A Corner of G Floor." It contains also much interesting League News, and a bright account by the Matron of "How I Spent my Holiday, 1907."

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the County of London for 1906 contains a valuable appendix of some sixty folio pages on School Hygiene. "A point has now been reached as to whether the greater part of the medical inspection shall remain fruitless, or whether the Council shall take steps which will justify their later interference to see that its younger dependents have a fair chance of properly benefiting by the education offered. Treatment as a public concern will have to be considered in respect to certain educational matters . . . in which neither the private practitioner nor the hospitals can give any hope of either providing sufficient or satisfactory relief for most of the cases requiring it."

The report urges the establishment of general medical inspection must inevitably mean, sooner or later, the establishment of school clinics for the treatment of at least the commonest derangements, such as eye, ear, and skin troubles. Without such treatment mere medical inspection is of necessity incomplete, and too often the time and trouble taken is wasted.

The Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and the Relief of Distress has issued a statement from which we learn that with the exception of short vacations the Commission has been sitting almost continuously on two days in each week for the last two years; it has orally examined about 400 witnesses, and, in addition, it has received written statements of evidence from nearly 1,000 persons whom it has not been possible to examine orally. It has also invited expressions of opinion from some 1,500 Poor-law bodies in the United Kingdom. The further evidence to be taken will not, it is believed, occupy much time, after which the Commission will at once begin the consideration of their report.

The popularity of Hall's Wine, and Keystone Burgundy, is demonstrated by the fact that the proprietors, Messrs. Stephen Smith and Co., Ltd., of Bow, London, E., have declared an interim dividend for the half year ending September 30th last at the rate of 10 per cent., as against 5 per cent. for the same period last year. The Directors report that since the "What is Burgundy" case the public have more than ever appreciated the quality of Keystone Burgundy, with the result that the sales have largely increased, and they are able to pay double the dividend on the ordinary shares, compared with the same period last year.

The winter sales are now in full swing, and many attractive bargains are to be had. Those of such houses as Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, Wigmore Street, Messrs. Garrould, of Edgware Road, W., and Messrs. Thomas Wallis and Co., of Holborn Circus, E.C., should on no account be missed.

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