

view which took place between these two bodies at Caxton House, S.W., on December 12th, 1907. This letter states it is understood that the Committee will probably have annually at their disposal £200 to be devoted to the training of midwives for service in the county. It estimates that this will cover the cost of training eight persons annually, and suggests that four should be trained in midwifery only, for work in towns, and four for work in rural districts, who, as recommended by Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, should be trained in general nursing as well as midwifery. The County Nursing Association is to bear the expense of the training in general nursing, and undertakes to use its best endeavours to secure appointments as village nurses for women so trained. The Association proposes that the training for rural districts should be for nine months, five months in midwifery and *four months in general nursing*, and expresses the hope that eventually the training may be extended from nine to twelve months. It seems incredible that any Nursing Association should suggest a four months' training in general nursing, and pledge itself to endeavour to secure appointments *as nurses* for women with this smattering of nursing knowledge. If they are certified midwives let them be recognised and organised as such, but to term them and place them as nurses is to lower nursing standards, and the conception of what is required of a trained nurse in the public mind.

The Salop Infirmary needs help, and the proposed improvements deserve it. Take the present Nurses' Home, which provides accommodation such as it is, for 24 nurses and the Matron, for whose use and 15 maids besides, there is but one bath, not because the authorities would not provide more of them if they could, but because there is no place to put them. Even the one precious bathroom now available is both without a window and ventilation. It appears, too, that the sleeping accommodation is inadequate, that for want of space in the Home the beds of two of the sisters are placed in the Infirmary itself between the wards, and for the same reason the nurses who fall sick cannot be separated from the others unless taken into the main building, and to do this is obviously not always convenient.

The position of the mortuary, near the main building of the institution, and close to the nurses' home, is a menace to both, since the exhalations of dead bodies sometimes so taint the air in

the vicinity as to become objectionable to the occupants of both places. For this reason at certain times the windows in the Nurses' Home have wisely been kept closed. It is no wonder, therefore, that the scheme of the directors provides for a new mortuary to be erected some distance away, and for that, too, the arguments obviously are irrefutable.

A bright and comfortable Home is indispensable in these days, and the new Home which it is hoped to erect on the site of the present one, and on adjacent ground, is to be constructed on the most modern plans, with plenty of space, light, and water. £8,000 seems a very small sum to accomplish so useful a bit of work, and we hope it will be soon forthcoming.

The New Year's Day gathering of managers and nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, was specially interesting this year, when the fortieth anniversary of these meetings was presided over by the Lord Provost. A large company of ladies and gentlemen attended the gathering. They were welcomed at the entrance to the Dispensary Hall by Sir William Bilsland, who shook hands with every one and wished them a happy new year. The Lord Provost alluded to the interesting circumstances under which those present had assembled, and mentioned the names of the survivors who were present at the first meeting. One of these was Nurse Kate Bell, who was so well known to all who had been associated with the infirmary. It was Nurse Bell who was the trusted nurse who made the antiseptic when Lord Lister was evolving his treatment.

Forty years ago the nursing staff numbered 42, to-day the number was 155. Owing to the progress of medical science and the devotion and skill of trained nurses, the average residence of patients in the Infirmary had been reduced by one half. The Lord Provost said that he desired to pay that tribute to the very great earnestness and intelligence and success and kindness with which the nurses performed their duties. Those of Miss Bell's period, without the advantages of the present day nurses as to training, had rendered splendid service to the medical profession and to the cause of healing.

Mr. J. D. Hedderwick, who, on behalf of the nurses and staff, thanked the Lord Provost for his kind wishes, alluded to the loss occasioned by the resignation of Mrs. Strong, to whom, amongst other things, they were in-

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