

the boy's death, and recommended that an extra night nurse should be employed.

"Only six patients required special attention"! Surely, half that number is enough for one nurse, to say nothing of the other 43 unfortunate persons distributed in six wards. The nursing in many country workhouses is still in the same elementary state, and one woman is expected to do the work of two. These bad conditions will continue to exist so long as the Masters of Workhouses, who, of course, know nothing of medicine and nursing, have any authority whatever in the nursing department. The present position of these Masters and of the nurses is a false and indefensible one, and if half the accidents in workhouse wards were made public this system would be swept away without delay. Just here a Central Nursing Council would be very useful.

A correspondent in Japan writes:—"The other day I visited the University Hospital, Kyoto, with Dr. Saiki, an extensive building containing 600 beds. There are 200 nurses, and from 400 to 600 students, and a complete staff of physicians and surgeons. The course is on the German model, and the nurses have two or three years' training, and are under State regulation. No one is allowed to practice as a nurse in Japan without going through a proper hospital training, including midwifery, and receiving a certificate of qualification. That is Japan. And we at home are still divided in our opinion as to whether a scullery maid who has got tired of washing plates should have the right of putting up a brass plate on any door, and calling herself a nurse, and be employed straightway to attend to surgical dressings and cases of critical illness.

"Another afternoon we went to Dr. Saiki's, and were entertained to ceremonial tea by his mother. A very interesting performance, but rather wearying to a Britisher. She graciously shortened it for our benefit. Afterwards Dr. Saiki showed us a splendid collection of old swords, and kindly gave us each a sword shield, both very old, with interesting designs upon them. He has a maternity hospital and a nursing institution which sends out some forty nurses—district nurses—who are under a Christian Matron. Forty from this institution went out to the war."

The thoroughness which is characteristic of Japan is evident in the system which it has applied to the organisation of nursing.

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board is handing over the Belmont Asylum, near Banstead, to be used as a workhouse for the accommodation of inmates from overcrowded London workhouses, and the Fulham Guardians have undertaken the administration of the new workhouse on condition that they are to make no profit out of the undertaking and suffer no pecuniary loss.

One of the finest Out-patients' Departments in the Kingdom was opened without ceremony at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, last week. The beautiful waiting halls are on the ground floor. In the basement is the dispensary with another hall, where the little patients and the elder people who accompany them wait for the making up of prescriptions. But there are no stairs. The people go down an inclined passage to the lower floor and up another to the street again, a most convenient arrangement for those who have brought their charges in perambulators. On the average the hospital receives between 400 and 500 out-patients daily. Until a year or more ago the number grew steadily, but it has ceased to do so, a fact parallel with the wonderfully good health of the Metropolis last year.

The arrangements for the first International Moral Education Congress, which will take place in London at the Imperial Institute from September 25th to September 29th, are now practically complete. The Conference will be representative in character, notification having been received by Mr. G. Spiller, who is acting as secretary, that delegates will attend from most of the European countries and also from America and the East.

The Chicago City Government has adopted an ordinance directing the pasteurising of all milk from cattle not proved free from tuberculosis.

The trial of the ten members and ex-members of the Mile End Board of Guardians on charges of conspiring with James Calcutt to defraud the guardians, and on other indictments, was concluded on Friday in last week. The Judge dwelt on the gravity of the case in relation to the growth of an insidious system of corruption in public life, and analysed the evidence in detail. The jury returned a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners, both for conspiracy and for corruptly receiving gifts, and they were sentenced to fines and imprisonment with hard labour, only one of the prisoners being punished by the infliction of a fine without imprisonment in addition.

That the nursing of the sick in many infirmaries is accomplished with infinite difficulty many Matrons know, who in past years have had to work with men of this type. Boards of Guardians should be abolished.

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