

Wright's gift of £8,000 at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary. An addition to the Nurses' Home is also to be erected at the cost of £4,000.

The two ladies nominated as members of the Monthly Board at the annual meeting of the General Hospital, Nottingham, were not elected. The seven vacancies were all monopolised by men.

The "Drink Bill" of the United Kingdom for 1908, as estimated by Dr. Dawson Burns, shows the greatest reduction in any one year that has yet been recorded. The difference between 1907 and 1908 was £5,955,718, while taking the increase of population into account the diminution was £7,529,918. Spirits, beer, and wine all shared in the reduction. The difference of the expenditure in 1907 and 1908 points to a widely prevailing cause, affecting the spending power of the community generally. It is estimated that the sum spent on drink in the United Kingdom in 1908 was upwards of £161,000,000.

The Town Clerk of Glasgow, Mr. A. W. Myles, has received a petition signed by a number of ratepayers requesting the Corporation to hold a full inquiry into the management of Ruchill Hospital.

At the meeting of the Corporation last Thursday Mr. Pratt gave notice he would move:—"That it be remitted to a Special Committee to submit to the Corporation at an early date a full report on the administration of Ruchill Hospital from April 30th, 1908, to the present date."

The sender of the petition to the Corporation of Glasgow, signed by 80 ratepayers, calling for another inquiry into the management of Ruchill Hospital, has received official intimation from the Town Clerk that it is incompetent. Several active citizens are agitating through the local press for the resignation of Councillor Anderson and the Matron.

Statistics published by the German *Imperial Gazette* show that in recent years there has been a steady decrease in the number of deaths in Germany from tuberculosis, and especially from tuberculosis of the lungs. The figures are based upon the monthly reports of deaths in some 350 of the largest centres of population in the Empire, and upon annual reports as to the causes of deaths from nearly all districts, as applied to the Imperial Board of Health.

THE INFANTS HOSPITAL, VINCENT SQUARE, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

A course of lectures on "Babies" will be delivered in the Lecture Theatre of the Hospital on Tuesdays, at 5 o'clock, by Dr. Ralph Vincent. May 4th, "Mother's Milk"; May 11th, "Substitute Feeding"; May 18th, "Rickets"; May 25th, "Gastric and Intestinal Disorder"; June 1st, "How to Advise Mothers of the Poorer Classes in the Management of Their Babies."

The lectures will be illustrated by Experiments and Epidiaseopic Demonstrations. Tickets for the Course, 5s.; Single Lectures, 2s.; to be obtained of the Secretary.

Dearth of Suitable European Candidates in India.*

In offering you a short paper on this subject, I should like to point out that the difficulty lies not so much in the dearth of candidates; this also is true, but more especially is it so in the case of suitable candidates. I can only speak from September, 1902. Up to this time Eurasian nurses as well as European were taken on the staff.

After this our Committee made a rule that only "Europeans, or girls fair enough to pass as European," should be employed.

The reason for this was that our nurses, after three years' training, go on our private nursing staff for one year before obtaining their certificates. Now, we find that many people who send for nurses object to Eurasian women, and it was sometimes very awkward if a nurse had to be passed over on the roster simply because she happened to be dark. The nurse, as a matter of course, wanted to know why she had been passed over, and great unpleasantness was the result.

The following are some reasons why I think so comparatively few European candidates apply. I say "comparatively few," because that, in 1907 alone, 37 probationers were admitted for training on our staff. Out of this large number there only remain 15 who have actually joined the staff and are now in training. The others have all left for various reasons; some did not like the work, others proved unsuitable, while a good many leave to get married. All this renders the work out here most trying and laborious. It is also disheartening. It is a great drawback not being able to see all the candidates before they enter, but the distances in India render this impossible. The word "European," used freely in our papers, seems for some people to have a very liberal meaning. Now for some reasons.

The home life out here and the ideas in general are so very different from those in England. In the same station of life in England, girls are all, or nearly all, working for their living; here they simply live at home, fritter away their time, expecting to marry, which in the majority of cases they do, and that at an earlier age than is common at home.

In India girls are not generally taught to do house-work, as they are at home. This is a great disadvantage in the case of a girl who contemplates taking up nursing, as many country-bred European girls consider house-work beneath them.

Notwithstanding the fact that many ward-boys and other servants assist the nurses here, so that so-called "menial" work is reduced to a minimum compared to what it is in England, still, some of the nurses who join consider the work they have to do *infra dig.*, and leave.

One probationer nurse who had been to England, although certainly not in a hospital there, complained that she got the work of a "charwoman"

* Read at the Annual Conference of the Association of Nursing Superintendents of India, 1908.

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