

Midland R.A.M.C., T., presided over the meeting.

No considerable town would now be complete which did not include among its organisations a nursing institute and private hospital, indeed, in all country towns of any size such institutions are being provided. In London private hospitals have many difficulties to overcome, the construction of private houses, lack of accommodation, light, and air, and excessive rents and rates. In the country a commodious airy house can be procured, at a cost which enables the manager to admit middle-class patients of moderate means. Thus many operations are performed in the fresh air of the country, which formerly came to town.

At Nottingham a good plan has been adopted, which is being followed by other cities. Here a well equipped private hospital is run by the Notts and Nottinghamshire Nursing Association, provided with a thoroughly trained and permanent staff of nurses, where the best aseptic precautions and nursing are available. A light and well ventilated operating theatre is provided, and in the large and airy rooms, amid bright and cheerful surroundings, those private patients who unfortunately have to submit to operations can meet the inevitable with the best possible chance of rapid recovery. Such private hospitals serve a useful purpose and fill a very necessary place in the organisation of social service.

The duties expected of the nurses in their employment by the Cardiff Guardians were revealed during the consideration, by the Visiting Committee, of a complaint made by Mr. Sydney Williams, on behalf of his wife, a night nurse in their employ. Mr. Williams stated that his wife had been in the service of the Board for five years, and had been promoted until she attained the position of Chief Night Attendant on the old and infirm patients in two blocks, with the charge of 160 patients, including imbeciles and epileptics, 25 cases needing changing, and 14 babies, as well as all female casuals, and any admissions during the night. The nurse had nominally one assistant but on several occasions had had no help but that of an able-bodied pauper.

Mr. Williams asserts that his wife, who had been alone on the two previous nights, went to the Matron on the evening of May 1st, and asked for a woman to assist her, and that the Matron refused to listen to her, and slammed the door in her face. That night she severely

strained herself in lifting back into bed a helpless patient, whom she found on the floor, and her husband produced a certificate to show that she was confined to her bed and prostrate.

The Matron denied most of the statements, and said that she could not understand anyone of Mrs. Williams' physique attempting to lift the woman, some of the women in the ward would have got out of bed and helped her if asked. She in fact placed the entire blame on Mrs. Williams, and a member of the Committee observed that it was "Six of one and half-a-dozen of the other."

The Committee agreed, while regretting the accident, that it had overtaken Mrs. Williams "in pursuance of her duty," and exonerated the Matron from blame. The Chairman said their object in such an institution was to maintain discipline. The truth is that the responsibility for the discreditable conditions revealed as to the understaffing of the wards, and the resulting inevitable neglect of the patients, and overwork of the nurse, rests with the Guardians, who apparently expect one woman to nurse 160 helpless patients. Such uncivilised treatment of the poor would soon be remedied by the passing of a Nurses' Registration Act.

The present accommodation of the Glasgow Nurses' Club in Lansdowne Crescent having become rather limited, it has been resolved to extend the premises. A two days' sale of work in aid of the extension fund has recently been held, and a good sum of money raised by this means.

In his report to the annual meeting of the King Edward's Coronation Fund for Nurses, held in Dublin recently, Sir Andrew Reed, K.C.B., Hon. Treasurer, stated that there are now 125 nurses and probationers who are registered members of the Society, three of these being life governors. Thirty-one nurses joined the Society since May, 1908. £55, the report stated, had been granted in aid to members during the year. The accounts showed a bank balance to credit of current account of £95. The Society's invested capital is £4,869. The following ten members were elected as members of the Council for the year 1909-10: Miss Mary Blunt, Miss Kelly, Miss MacDonnell, R.R.C., Miss Hammond, Sir Francis R. Cruise, Sir Christopher Nixon, T. A. O'Farrell, J.P., Sir Lambert Ormsby, M.D., Sir William Thomson, and Sir William Watson. The following five members were elected by the mem-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)