

much trouble. Other officers were interviewed, and also several probationer nurses, who alleged that they were leaving because they were unhappy and not receiving proper instruction. After a lengthy discussion, notice of motion was given by the Rev. J. H. Pemberton, that the unsatisfactory probationers be requested to resign.

At a further meeting, however, it was agreed to appoint a committee to have interviews with the nurses and endeavour to promote a better feeling among them.

The first thing for the Guardians to do is to have the printed curriculum of the system of training before them. Are the nurses receiving adequate instruction or are they not? But how many amongst these managers would be able to estimate the value of a professional curriculum?—but few, we fear! Anyway, we are glad to note the nurses are alive to the necessity of organised instruction to fit them for their important work. Again, how is it possible for lay Boards to select pupil nurses? This should certainly be the duty of the Matron or Superintendent Nurse, who has the expert knowledge to qualify her for this duty.

The Medical Staff of the Swansea General and Eye Hospital unanimously sent up to the Board of Management the following resolution, in connection with the appointment of the Matron, Miss Musson, to the General Hospital, Birmingham, which has been recorded in the minutes of the Board:—

“The medical staff desire to express to the Board of Management their sense of the invaluable services rendered by Miss Musson to the Hospital during her Matronship, especially for the manner in which she has raised the standard of nursing and for the improvement she has brought about in the general tone and discipline of the nursing staff. The medical staff rely on the co-operation of the Board of Management to maintain this standard.”

Those acquainted with Miss Musson's work will know that this gratifying tribute to its value is a just one.

We always read with the greatest satisfaction the quarterly journal of the Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumnae; it is inspired by so much good professional and humanitarian feeling, and the December number is very full of information.

Writing of Miss Baxter's work in Italy, it states:—“One of the most excellent pieces of work undertaken by a Johns Hopkins graduate among the many who are bringing honours to their school—one of the most unselfish, the

most slowly rewarded crusades for good nursing and light in dark places, is that which has been carried on for more than ten years by Grace Baxter, of the class of 1894, in Italy. Immediately after her graduation Miss Baxter was called back to Italy, her parents' adopted home, by an opportunity to direct the experiment of training superior young women in nursing, in Naples. By a series of incidents, a set of wards in the *Gesù e Maria*, a large public hospital, was to be taken from the nuns and used as a training school. Backed by a woman prominent in social and educational circles, the Princess Strongoli, and supported by a medical chief of high qualities, Prof. A——, but confronted by every possible obstacle of prejudice, caste, social conventions, and the Neapolitan temperament, Miss Baxter, whose whole character, personality, and knowledge gave her a perfect equipment for her work, has devoted herself since then with patience and heroism of rare stamp to what has been almost entirely a labour of love. And the results, as regarded the development of the young women in her charge, have been gratifying and encouraging. But more and more evident has it become that the conditions of a great public hospital in Italy, at present, make the extension of this work or even its continuance, a hopeless enterprise. Miss Baxter's friends therefore have concluded that the only way in which the training of nurses can be carried on now in Italy without crushing burdens of anxiety and trouble is to place them in a school and hospital under wise private management. To this end money is being raised to equip and start a small institution, of which Miss Baxter shall have charge. Only three thousand dollars are needed altogether (15,000 lire), and as Italy is poor but beloved of many Americans, some of Miss Baxter's friends have hoped that among those who know and care for that country, who also know and care for the Johns Hopkins and the spirit of those who go out from it to work, there might be some who would be glad to contribute.

Mr. Edward Grimwade, who was a passenger by the Royal Mail steamship *Ophir*, has recently reached home, having completed the latter part of the journey by the overland route. Interviewed by the *Morning Post*, he said that the *Ophir* arrived in the Straits of Messina little more than twenty-four hours after the earthquake. Up to December 30th all on board were ignorant of the catastrophe which had occurred, but, at three o'clock on the afternoon of that day the *Ophir* was sig-

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