

Infirmary), have died in the discharge of their duty. The West Coast of Africa, although much improved as to its sanitary condition, has also taken toll, and the Association has to deplore the loss of one of the best Matrons on the permanent staff, Miss M. B. Wood, also trained at Guy's, who died of blackwater fever after seven years' service in Southern and Northern Nigeria. The fourth death during the year is that of Miss J. A. Ormerod (trained at the Royal Infirmery, Newcastle), which occurred at St. Helena.

These deaths tend to emphasise the risk which attends service in tropical climates, but this risk does not in the least deter nurses from offering for work. During the past year 33 Matrons and nurses have received the Silver Badge of the Association conferred for "five years' and upwards meritorious service."

An interesting announcement is that during the last four years grants for special training, amounting to £132 14s. 9d., have been made to 24 nurses, and of this number only three were subsequently considered unsuitable for appointment, and another, who had already completed a three years' agreement, was not eventually re-employed, causing a loss in all to the Association of £17 6s. The Committee consider that, taking into consideration the amount of special training which is now required to meet the demands made for experience in massage, maternity, and tropical nursing, they consider that the funds of the Association could not be more profitably employed.

The return also shows that nurses who have left their trainings not only feel the need of further knowledge but are willing to pay for it.

The Annual Meeting was held on Thursday last at 2, Carlton Gardens, by kind permission of Lady Wantage.

### Presentation.

A pleasant ceremony took place at the City Hospital, Grafton Street, Liverpool, last week, when the Matron, Miss Ilbery, who has now served 25 years as Matron in the Corporation service, and so attained her silver jubilee, was presented with an illuminated address, as well as with some beautiful and valuable gold ornaments.

Tea was served in the grounds of the hospital, after which Dr. N. E. Roberts, Visiting Physician, called upon Dr. E. W. Hope, Medical Officer of Health, to make the presentation on behalf of the past and present medical and nursing staff of the hospital.

Dr. Hope spoke of the important part which Miss Ilbery had taken in the development of the hospital service of the Corporation, comprising, during her long and devoted work, service at Netherfield Road Hospital, Parkhill Hospital, Port

Sanitary Hospital, Fazakerley Hospital, and Grafton Street Hospital. In all these positions she had uniformly gained the confidence and thanks of the different committees under which she had worked. It was given, he said, to few to earn the regard and affection of so many colleagues and friends. A further presentation was made by Mr. Markland, engineer at the hospital, who presented another illuminated address and silver muffin dish on behalf of the domestic staff.

The gifts were suitably acknowledged by Miss Ilbery, who had a most cordial reception.

### Examinations.

The Bishop of Carlisle recently presented to the nurses at the Cumberland Infirmery the medals given by the Chairman of the Committee of Management, Dr. Barnes, and the Matron, Miss Cummings, to those who acquitted themselves best in the examinations. The nurses successful in gaining medals were:—

Junior Section.—Nurse Westmoreland and Nurse Russell.

Senior Section.—Nurse Tiffen.

Matron's Medal.—Nurse Carter.

The Bishop, after presenting the medals, said he had taken a paternal interest in nursing since his daughter had trained as a nurse. He appealed to them to make the very best use of the opportunities which were given them for getting exercise and fresh air. They should not shirk this, even if they felt tired and fatigued. As with all other professions, there were special characteristic perils attaching to nursing. They became familiar with sickness, pain, and death, and it needed a special power and peculiar grace to retain, under those circumstances of familiarity, in all its fullness, the power of sympathy; and yet he was persuaded that a large part of the result of their beneficent work depended upon their keeping in all its freshness, in all its power and might, the faculty and sense of sympathy at its highest and best. He heartily hoped they would also keep their minds fresh, and one of the ways of keeping their minds fresh was to read when they had opportunities, but not always to read fifth-rate novels. He did not say don't read novels. He thoroughly believed in the development of the imagination through the powers of fiction, but they should take care that the novels they read were really worth reading, full of ideals, and had a high and strong influence upon the imagination. It would help them to read a variety of books—biographies, history, fiction, poetry—because when they were nursing, especially private nursing, they would be able to keep their patients mentally bright and interested in something outside their own sufferings, and do a very great deal to promote their recovery. Thousands upon thousands of homes in England to-day were simply ruined because they were utter blanks, because there was no intelligence in them, and because of bad cooking. Nothing ruined a home like dullness, and if they meant to be happy wives and happy mothers they must make themselves interesting and be interested

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)