

## Nursing Echoes.



Miss E. H. Becher, Principal Matron, Headquarters, will attend at the Military Hospital, the Castle, Edinburgh, on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 2nd, from 3 to 5 o'clock, to interview candidates or intending candidates for Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

The Trained Nurses' Institute in connection with St. George's Hospital, held its first annual meeting in December. There have been 176 calls for nurses, and 96 cases have been supplied. Of these applications 81 have been from St. George's men, 19 from outside practitioners, 36 from patients, and 13 from hospitals and nursing homes. The number of nurses now on the staff is eleven. When the number increases we hope the staff may have the option, as they have at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of working on the co-operative principle after the first year.

It is a very great advantage to the medical staff of a hospital to be able to secure the services of certificated nurses trained in their own wards, and a sense of justice on their part should ensure their earnings to the nurses employed by their patients. What a stupendous upheaval there would be in one hospital world if the medical staff were compelled by the Committee to contribute fifty per cent. of their fees for the upkeep of the "charity"! Imagine the outburst of righteous indignation which would result! *Tremblement de terre* and tidal waves would be nothing to it. Then why should the poor little earnings of nurses be commandeered?

Nurses who realise the good work which is being done by the St. Pancras School for Mothers, 37, Chalfont Street, Euston Road, N.W., will be interested to know that a special *matinée* in its aid will be given by Mr. H. B. Irving, Miss Dorothea Baird, and company, at the Shaftesbury Theatre, on Thursday, February 11th, at 2.30, when "Charles the First" will be presented.

The Mansfield Guardians have adopted the recommendations of a sub-committee that, with a view to the danger to which the nurses are exposed through the violence of imbeciles, the Master's powers be extended so that he

can engage special assistance, when considered necessary by the Superintendent Nurse, without the sanction of the medical officer being first obtained, that a patient who could help the Nurse-in-Charge in an emergency until assistance arrived should be placed in the imbecile wards, and that the nurses should be provided with whistles with which they could summon assistance. We do not consider that a patient is a suitable person to deal with violent imbeciles. It would be interesting to know the proportion of nurses to patients in the imbecile wards.

Mr. R. Finney occupied the chair at the last fortnightly meeting of the Shardlow Guardians, when the circumstances connected with the resignation of Nurse Wilson at the previous meeting were under discussion. At that meeting the Clerk was instructed to inquire into the statement of Miss Wilson that she had resigned in consequence of treatment she alleged she had received at the Workhouse. The Clerk now reported that Miss Wilson stated that she could not get any sleep because of the noise on the landing, and in the adjoining sitting room. She said that it was, perhaps, unreasonable to expect the officers to be quiet when they were off duty, but suggested that the Guardians should make such arrangements as would enable the nurse to get some sleep. Some days she had only been able to get an hour's sleep. She also said that she had only a candle to work by in the sick wards, and the light was not sufficient. The Chairman thought Miss Wilson's reasons for resignation were "somewhat flimsy," and the matter dropped.

We wonder if the situation had been that the Chairman himself had only been able to get an hour's sleep at night on account of continual noise, whether he would have thought the matter quite so trivial. It is impossible for nurses to do their duty at night if they get practically no rest in day, and it is the duty of those responsible to provide suitable quarters for night nurses.

Considerable anxiety is felt as to the fate of Miss Agnes Burton, a probationer at the Kettering Infectious Hospital, who left the institution on Boxing Day to visit her relations at Peterborough, but never arrived at home. A bag bearing her monogram, and a letter addressed to her mother were found next day on the river embankment at Bedford, and the letter indicated that she was in a very troubled condition of mind. The river has been dragged without result, and the police believe that Miss Burton is still alive.

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