

means of producing a light even for purposes of necessity. He points out that a rule might be made that nurses should extinguish their electric lights at a fixed hour, a rule which works well at the fever hospital at Tooting Bec, and elsewhere, and which could be enforced just as well as the rule denying matches and candles, which at Ruchill is apt to be broken.

Mr. Wingate points out that the doctors, though having the use of the electric light, are permitted candles and matches, though it is much more dangerous for a man, likely to smoke in bed, to have these at his disposal than a woman, who would probably only use them in case of necessity. The reason, no doubt, is that men would not tolerate such a rule whereas women put up with it. Certainly if the electric light is turned off the nurses should not be left without means of obtaining a light at night, in case of sudden illness or other emergency.

Miss Helen Scott Hay, Superintendent of the Illinois Training School for Nurses, Chicago, is on her way to the Continent for a three months' rest. To her great regret she was unable to leave her duties in time to come to London for the Congress.

The State Associations of Nurses of Illinois and Georgia, U.S.A., have come out publicly and officially in support of the principle of Equal Suffrage. The Connecticut State Association, on the other hand, issued strong resolutions against considering it, even going so far as to declare that it was a subject on which nurses had no right to an opinion. As a rule, the New England States may be regarded as very conservative. The West is progressive and the South has an advanced body of progressive women who look to Equal Suffrage as a hope for the suppression of child labour.

The success in the eight States which in the past Session have passed Bills for the Registration of Nurses is encouraging the nurses in other States to organise for the same purpose. A Committee has recently been appointed by the Kentucky Association of Graduate Nurses to prepare a Bill.

The unprofessional nursing press in the United States and at home is doing all in its power (which isn't much) to depreciate State protection for trained nurses. But we nurses have passed the age of bluff. Working women are beginning to think and reason, and are no longer content to accept the sickly platitudes presented to them through the quack commercial organs as facts.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

EXPENDITURE OF LONDON HOSPITALS.

The statistical report on the ordinary expenditure of 66 London hospitals for the year 1908 has just been published by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. The primary objects of these reports, the issue of which was begun by Mr. Danvers Power with the figures for 1903, are to assist the hospitals themselves to secure an increased degree of control over expenditure by comparisons between the cost of working at different institutions, and to enable those interested in the hospitals to observe the results of the comparison from year to year, and to appreciate and encourage the efforts which may be made in the direction of economy.

Among the many interesting tables which the report for 1908 contains is one which indicates the total cost per occupied bed and the total cost per out-patient. These figures applied to the 17 larger general hospitals show that in 1908 they had 4,393 occupied beds, and an attendance of 2,658,682 out-patients. The average cost per bed occupied was £81 10s. 9d., and the average cost per out-patient attendance was 6.63d.

Among the interesting figures given are the following:—

Hospital.	Beds (Inpatients).			Ave. num-ber in daily occupation.
	Medical.	Surgical.	Special.	
Charing Cross	60	72	18	136
German	56	66	2	117
Great Northern Central	48	90	17	146.75
Guy's	227	281	88	529.8
King's College	101	90	33	189
London	373	491	58	799
Metropolitan	53	60	—	105
Middlesex	151	143	11	276
Prince of Wales's	51	62	12	104
Royal Free	64	64	37	145
St. George's	150	179	10	302.18
St. Mary's	116	133	30	261.7
St. Thomas's	150	232	231	498.35
University College	150	118	11	248.5
West London	75	82	3	145.27
Westminster	89	93	31	183.15

As regards the great army of out-patients the following were the figures for last year:—

Hospital.	Casualties.	Others.	Total new	
			Out-patients.	Attendances.
Charing Cross ..	10,878	12,090	23,226	75,477
German	3,233	23,649	26,882	99,878
Great Northern Central	5,955	21,588	27,543	78,847
Guy's	83,638	44,971	132,288	446,662
King's College ..	6,493	9,067	15,867	46,654
London	145,351	93,327	242,875	607,271
Metropolitan ...	15,561	25,498	41,059	95,261
Middlesex	32,643	16,140	49,224	128,615
Prince of Wales's	21,787	10,626	32,413	93,482
Royal Free	24,597	11,207	36,258	101,241
St. George's	28,759	12,918	41,934	113,790
St. Mary's	25,627	22,825	49,532	133,992

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