

WEDDING BELLS.

Miss A. Thomas, Matron of the Park Hospital for the last eight years, was, previous to her departure, the recipient of a beautiful silver cake basket from the assistant medical officers, two handsome silver hair-brushes, mirror, tortoise-shell and silver comb, and two silver clothes-brushes from the nursing staff, a silver tea-kettle from the domestic staff, and a set of silver tea-knives and a travelling rug from her officers. The greatest regret is felt at her leaving. She sails for India on October 30th to be married, on her arrival, about December 2nd, and takes with her the heartiest good wishes of the whole staff, by whom she is much beloved and respected.

The *British Journal of Nursing* offers congratulations, especially to the bridegroom.

THE PASSING BELL.

We deeply regret to record the death of Miss Isabella Gordon, who, for the past fifteen years, has been doing good home hospital work in South Africa. Miss Gordon was trained at the London Hospital, and has many warm friends at home and abroad, who will receive this sad news with deep sorrow.

LECTURES.

It has been arranged that the lecture to be given by Lieutenant Shackleton in aid of the funds of the Lady Dudley's Nursing Scheme will be delivered on December 14th, at 8 p.m., if possible in the University Buildings, Dublin. The Lord Lieutenant will preside.

READ THESE PAMPHLETS.

The Educational Pamphlets of the American Society of Moral and Sanitary Prophylaxis are now on sale at the Workers' Bookshop, Women's Employment Office, 18a, New Oxford Street. Educational Pamphlet No. 1, The Young Man's Problem; No. 4, The Boy Problem; and No. 5, How My Uncle, the Doctor, Instructed Me, etc., all sell for a sixpence. No. 3, The Relations of Social Diseases with Marriage, and their Prophylaxis, for one shilling. Pamphlet No. 2, For Teachers, will be on sale later.

THE HOSPITALS' BILL.

The following is the text of the Hospitals Bill, introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. J. MacVeagh. It proposes to empower local authorities to strike a rate in aid of local hospitals:—

1. From and after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for any district council, corporation, board of town commissioners, county council, or other rating authority to strike a rate not exceeding threepence in the pound on the valuation towards the erection or maintenance of any hospitals situated within the area of charge.

2. The allocation of any rates so levied shall be subject in England and Wales to the approval of the Local Government Board, in Ireland to the approval of the Local Government Board for Ireland, and in Scotland to the approval of the Local Government Board for Scotland.

3. This Act may be cited as the Hospitals Act, 1909.

Nursing Echoes.

We commend Mrs. Hampton Robb's Paper on the International Standard of Nursing Education, published in this issue, to the careful consideration of all those interested in the future efficiency and solidarity of the nursing profession.

At a meeting of the Halifax Board of Guardians, a member contended that it was cruel to old people who had been accustomed to sleep between blankets to place them, on admission to the hospital, between sheets. At the Royal Halifax Infirmary patients who wanted blankets could have them. Another Guardian replied that where they had from 200 to 300 persons in bed they could not have the patients saying they wanted this or that. He had mentioned the case of an old person, who had been accustomed to blankets, to the doctor, who assured him that if he knew of such a case blankets would be supplied. Surely this is a question which should be left to the charge nurse, and it should be the rule that every patient should be made as comfortable as possible, so long as a high standard of cleanliness is maintained.

The deaths of so many nurses from cholera at the Presidency Hospital, Calcutta, has naturally aroused much public interest and concern, and an illuminating correspondence has taken place in the *Statesman*. "A Mourner" refers to the absolutely putrid material which was spread on the racecourse, and to the large number of flies which at the same time came from that direction to the hospital, and adds, "the authorities, we are informed, are still looking for the cause of the outbreak, but have we not here got something more than an imaginary cause in this so-called litter?" Two facts which are indisputable are firstly: the putrid condition of the material that was scattered most lavishly on the new track of the racecourse gave rise to an extremely nauseating and pungent odour, which was most noticeable for days, both in the vicinity of the racecourse and also at some considerable distance from it, and secondly the fact that lately there had been a large number of flies (blue-bottles) found in the hospital and that these flies came from the direction of the racecourse.

The writer contends that "in the absence of anything to the contrary we are justified in saying the flies carried the infection from this putrid mass and so the epidemic arose."

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