

European Roman Catholic Sisters (untrained), 28 Matrons (trained locally), 30 nurses (trained locally), and 23 pupils in training. The European Matrons and Sisters are distributed as follows:—One Matron in the paying section of the General Hospital, Colombo, one Matron in the Lady Havelock Hospital, one Matron in the Kandy Hospital, one Matron in the Victoria Memorial Eye Hospital, three Sisters in Kandy Hospital, and ten Sisters in the paying section of the General Hospital, Colombo. The Roman Catholic Sisters perform nursing duties in the general wards of the Colombo Hospital and in the pauper hospital at Ragama and the Kurunegala Hospital. Two nursing schools for the training of young women exist at the Lady Havelock Hospital, Colombo, and at the Kandy Hospital. The length of the course is two years, after which a certificate of proficiency is granted to those who pass an examination. There is accommodation for 23 pupils in training.

The Report of the American Hospital Association, the membership of which is composed of male and female hospital administrators on a model curriculum for the proper training of a regular nurse, or nurse helper, has been presented to the annual meeting of the Association and published. The American nursing world was somewhat apprehensive of what the conclusions of this Committee might be, owing to the fact that the determination to define a curriculum was not inspired by those who had led the van of modern nursing progress in the United States. The Committee as formed has, however, had the advantage of the experience of Dr. Henry M. Hurd, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Miss Mary M. Riddle, of Newton Hospital, and others genuinely interested in the higher education of nurses. There is much of very great value in the conclusions of the Committee, although to some recommendations we take exception. As the report is worthy of full consideration we propose to discuss it upon a future occasion.

Periodically, says the *American Journal of Nursing*, with changes of government officials, the question comes up, and is threshed out, as to whether or not a Canadian pupil in an American training school is a contract labourer. After much learned discourse, the Secretary of Commerce and Labour at Washington has decided that she is a student, in spite of the fact that she receives some compensation in money during her training, and is to be placed in the same class with the students of the United States Military Academy, at West Point, who also receive a certain allowance whilst studying.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The new Infirmary and extended Workhouse provided by the City of London Guardians was formally opened at Homerton on Saturday last. The Infirmary is designed and equipped for 681 indoor inmates and 63 officers, and although due economy has been exercised in its construction it is equipped with all the latest appliances.

The Lord Mayor, a real devotee of hospitals, paid a visit on Saturday afternoon to Plaistow to lay the foundation stone of the new building in connection with St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, when he remarked he was glad to know that this hospital was the outcome of the work of the children of the district. The hospital started as a day nursery, then it grew into a children's hospital, and now it is a hospital for women and children. The new building will increase the accommodation to 62 beds, and it is planted in a district where it will be of the greatest use and convenience to a very poor population, of whom Miss Drahard, the very sympathetic Matron, is a sincere friend.

Sir Clifford Allbutt will open the new Nurses' Home, and operating theatre at the Dewsbury and District Infirmary, on October 19th. He is to be presented with a heavy oak walking stick out of the oak from the parish church of which his father was vicar.

The Council of the Association of Poor-Law Unions, in a memorandum issued to Boards of Guardians, strongly criticise the report of the Poor-Law Commission in respect to the charges of extravagance levelled against the existing administration. To support their view the Council has prepared, for the use of Guardians in England and Wales, a synopsis of Section IV.

The Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons has been issued. It is a somewhat disquieting document so far as criminal offences are concerned, as there was an increased reception of about 8,000 prisoners during the year. Much of the report is taken up with the question of unemployment and crime, and in their introductory remarks on this subject the Commissioners say:—"If, as is shown by inquiry to be the opinion of the local prison authorities, whom we have consulted throughout the country, unemployment is the principal cause of the growth in the number of commitments to local prisons, we cannot ignore the grave warnings of the Report of the Poor-Law Commissioners as to the effect of what they call the 'new problem of chronic under-employment.' If, as stated, it is not only chronic but increasing rapidly, and if we are to have an increasing aggregation of unskilled labour at our great ports and in our populous districts, we must be prepared for an increase in those minor offences against the law which are believed to be directly, or indirectly, the consequence of unemployment."

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