

Norwich Hospital want nurses and maids to be given three-quarters of an hour for dinner at mid-day, instead of the usual half-hour. As the latter have already twenty minutes for lunch at eleven o'clock, the extension of time does not appear necessary. Incidentally, during the discussion, Dr. Barton, who opposed the innovation, said "he had the pleasure last Wednesday morning of taking round this institution Sir William Church, the late President of the College of Physicians, and a member of the Board of Management and the House Committee of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He spent two hours, and took the greatest interest in everything, but more especially in the treatment of the nurses. He cross-examined at full length Miss Cann on all the details, and he remarked, "Take care you are not doing too much for them," and he added, "Our nurses at Bartholomew's would be glad to get half the good things that the nurses of your hospital get."

This is true as to safe and sanitary housing, and the sooner Sir William Church uses his influence as a Governor of St. Bartholomew's to provide a new Nursing Home for the nursing staff the better. The medical students and microbes are now sumptuously housed, and we believe a resolution stands on the minutes that the new Nurses' Home was to have precedence of the Pathological Block.

The statistics furnished by Dr. A. K. Chalmers, Medical Officer of Health, and published every Saturday, have shown that for several weeks there has been a steady increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria in Glasgow.

It is proposed to erect two temporary pavilions on the vacant ground to the east of Ruchill Fever Hospital. We hope that arrangements are being made for an additional supply of efficiently trained nurses, so that there may be no repetition of the overwork of the nurses, and disorganisation of the nursing department, which aroused so much adverse criticism in 1907.

Wednesday, October 13th, was a red letter day at the Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood. It was kept as the Harvest Thanksgiving, and View Day. The service took place in the chapel at 3.15. The decorations were exquisite, the screen and east end being a mass of fern and leaves, of most beautiful autumnal shades, with white daisies and piles of fruit and corn. The patients occupied the front seats; some were wheeled in and sat in couch chairs in the aisle, 94 out of 110 being present. The singing by a choir of nurses and

maids numbering over 40 voices was splendid, Barnby's anthem, "Great is the Lord," being rendered with much spirit, and a beautiful little vesper hymn was most tastefully sung at the end of the service. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Brook Deedes, Vicar of Hampstead. After the service, the guests, including some of the Hospital Committee, and various supporters, were entertained by the Matron and Sisters in the Nurses' Home. During tea a delightful programme of vocal and instrumental music was given by the nurses. After tea the wards were visited; the decorations of foliage and lovely flowers were most effective, and the patients enjoyed a bounteous tea kindly provided by the Chairman of the Hospital.

Every part of the building was thrown open for inspection, and the laundry and kitchens, Nurses' Home, and the engineering and lighting departments were all visited in turn. The memory of the day will not soon pass away.

As we go to press a memorial window is being unveiled and dedicated in the church of St. Luke, Kingston-on-Thames, in memory of Miss J. A. Smith, late Matron of Kingston Infirmary, and President of its Nurses' League, whose good work, not only in the Infirmary, for which she did so much, but for the profession at large is well known to the readers of this journal. A short special service has been arranged, with an address by the Vicar, after the dedication.

*The Statesman*, Calcutta, in commenting on the dismissal of the nurse who wrote to it from the Medical College Hospital, whose letter to that paper was quoted by us recently, invites an explanation from the Hospital authorities. The fact is that after the letter appeared the Principal of the Hospital gave orders on September 1st that the nurse was to leave in three days' time. Two days later she received a written notice from the Ladies' Committee "that her services would not be required after the 9th inst." We are at a loss to know how these contradictory orders can have been given unless the Principal, who oddly enough is a man, acted on his own. Anyway, everyone appears to have been anxious to stifle public criticism of the overwork and underfeeding, and general callous treatment of the nursing staff. We hope *The Statesman* will maintain the right of aggrieved nurses to appeal to the press in cases where it is well known that, as at the Medical College Hospital at Calcutta, the Committee strongly resent any complaint concerning their management. The truth is that the treatment of nurses in this hospital needs exposing, when we have little doubt that a thorough system of reform will be instituted.

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