

twelve months in attendance on the insane in a recognised institution, and have attended ten lectures, must have a knowledge of First Aid, and of the Nursing Handbook so far as it concerns the subjects of the preliminary examination. The examination will be both written and *viva-voce*. Successful candidates at the Preliminary Examination will receive a voucher, and successful candidates at the Final Examination may, on obtaining distinction, be awarded a special certificate to that effect.

Nurse Mary D. Harmer has a very interesting letter on "Notes on How to Look after a Chronic or Bed-ridden Insane Patient," in *The Asylum News*, which ends thus, with a plea for stronger sympathy between psychological and hospital nurses:—

"Dirty cases are most trying to one's temper, patience and judgment are most necessary. We say, sometimes, I know So-and-So need not be so dirty, but we forget that that is why we are with that poor soul. We must reason more both for her and ourselves. We mental nurses are doing a grand and noble work in looking after these dirty, repulsive cases. Who knows but that by God's mercy our daily care of their bodies as well as their brains may tend to restore their lost mental balance; never feel hopeless, but stick tight to the work. It is grand, the reward is hidden. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Encouragement should be given to those who undertake the nursing of the insane, nervous, or mental invalid. Many of these are good men and women, having heart and soul in their work. The ordinary hospital nurse has no idea what it means in reality—unless she enters an asylum—beyond an occasional case in her ward, which is removed as soon as opportunity arises. Let their eyes be opened that they may see; and there would be stronger sympathy between the psychological nurses and the hospital nurses. The former have really the greatest strain, and have to put out more energy and skill to manage the patient with tact."

It was this desire to know more of one another's work, difficulties, and aspirations, which suggested the resolution passed at the International Congress of Nurses in July, that a Conference on Mental Nursing should be held in London. As Mrs. Hampton Robb said: We all need to know more of this special branch of nursing.

A resolution asking for a Local Government Board inquiry has been adopted by the Chorlton Union Board of Guardians. Dr. Orchard has by letter criticised the nurses' dietary, and from discussions which have resulted it would appear that not the quality and quantity of food was in question but the question of how it was cooked. It is not only in public institu-

tions that we suffer the ruin of our digestions by incapable cooks. If only some of our women could be sent into French hospitals, to work under "Madame Econome," they might return as a thankful blessing. The nourishing and admirable meals provided for the nursing staff at the Tondu Hospital, Bordeaux, at which the Directrice presides, and guests find hospitable entertainment, would be a very good lesson for many of our cooks and matrons.

We do not share the optimistic views of the Local Government Board inspector who recently attended a meeting of the Isle of Wight Guardians. Owing to the death of the Master and Chaplain, extremely rapid deterioration in details of administration, he said, set in. The Medical Officer and the new Superintendent Nurse were doing all that they could, but the present staff of seven nurses for 90 patients could only be sufficient if they were all willing and competent. Unfortunately that was not the case, as there was only one trained nurse besides the Superintendent. The Board were paying sufficient for a fully trained staff, and he urged that all the nurses should be trained.

A well organised institution does not fall to pieces like a pack of cards upon the death of any officer, and under no circumstances whatever can seven nurses look after 90 patients. The cruel understaffing in nursing and domestic departments of country infirmaries is the real reason of their inefficiency, and until we have women inspectors dealing with such matters, women will continue to be overworked and underpaid. One additional nurse is to be appointed at the Isle of Wight Infirmary—at least three are required.

"Violent and abusive" are the epithets applied to the conduct of three mothers of school children at Horsley Woodhouse School, Derbyshire, when summoned to account for their treatment of Nurse Adams, the school nurse, and "noisy" might be added also, on the evidence of Police-Constable Wilkins, who said that when he arrived on the scenes they were making a great disturbance by shouting, clapping of hands, booing, and rattling of pans. The nurse made visits on September 22nd and 30th, and while making a third visit on October 7th she was, the prosecution stated, subjected to ill-usage. The police had to be requisitioned to accompany her through Horsley Woodhouse to the next village. Nurse Adams fainted after officially reporting the incident. The defendants, who declined to apologise, were let off with payment of costs amounting to 13s. 6d. each.

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