

the private nurses, now numbers 169. During the last year 23 nurses completed their training and gained certificates; 20 gained the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, and 12 the certificate of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses.

Our best thanks are due to Miss Baillie, our Matron, and her staff for the excellent services they have again rendered the Infirmary.

"In going through the items of the account, I purposely omitted to mention that there is again no charge against the Infirmary for linen, because I wish specially to refer to the great assistance of the Royal Infirmary Needlework Guild under the presidency of her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort. These ladies have again thrown themselves into the work with energy and enthusiasm, and I have not the slightest doubt that the quantity of linen which they have presented to the Infirmary must at least represent the sum of £500 for the year. The ladies are not content with ordinary methods of advancing their cause, but this year intend to make a special effort of their own in arranging a fête and sale of work, to be held in the garden of the Nurses' Home on the 6th and 7th July next; and I am sure we all wish them every possible success."

The whole hospital world owes a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Handley, of Bath, the clever wife of the late Chairman of the Royal United Hospital there. She it was who first proposed the organisation of a Linen League, and set a system in motion which has brought thousands of pounds' worth of linen into use in our hospitals. It was a very happy idea, and one which the hospital world avails itself of more and more every year.

The Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, has at present no preliminary training school for its probationers, but the Lady Superintendent of Nurses, Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., has kindly given us the following information as to what is required of candidates. They must satisfy the Lady Superintendent that they possess a knowledge of housework and cooking; and pass an examination in anatomy and cooking before they are appointed as probationers. They study for this examination, partly at home and partly during the preliminary three months of training, in the course of which they have lectures from one of the surgeons, and classes, etc., the examination being held a week before the end of the quarter. This examination used to be taken by the probationers before entrance, but Miss Gill found that as the majority had had no proper instruction in the subjects in which

they were examined, they crammed from a book, and learnt unintelligently. It is hoped now to ensure both that they have a test before signing, and that they are properly taught, while they gain the necessary knowledge as early as possible in their course, but Miss Gill is very anxious for the establishment of a preliminary training school, whenever this is feasible.

A correspondent writes from Mauritius:—

"At a meeting of clergymen and Church workers on January 25th, a paper was read by a lady missionary who has worked for many years in Mauritius. She dealt mainly with the needs of the native women. One proposal made was, from a nursing point of view, very unusual—viz., that an effort be made to induce the Local Government to set apart wards in the hospitals for the sole use of Protestants. The reason for this suggestion is that nursing in all the hospitals is under the care of the Sisters of the Roman Catholic community. As I have never nursed in the Civil Hospital, nor in any of the other smaller hospitals scattered over the colony, I have not had the opportunity of personal observation. Whenever I have been giving a lesson of a hour and a half's duration, or paying a casual visit, I have met with the greatest courtesy at all the hospitals from the sisters."

"To set apart a special ward, or wards, for those patients who profess to be Protestants, is no solution to the religious problem. It would be sad to see more walls being put up between different sects and creeds. Alas! the existing walls are already too high in this colony. But it is regrettable that those who tend the sick should not treat all suffering creatures alike. I say 'creatures,' for many of those poor, ignorant Malabars are little removed from the lower animals."

"A lay superintendent of nursing in the principal hospital—Port Louis—is sadly needed, but there is little prospect of that. The Government already grudge the grant to the Health Department, and consider it too large. But anyone who has any acquaintance of home hospitals will say that the money spent on the hospitals is inadequate. Also, one cannot dispense with the Religious Sisters until a competent lay nursing staff is forthcoming, and that cannot be got locally."

Thoroughly trained Roman Catholic nurses might look around in our Crown Colonies and see where their trained skill can be of the greatest use by way of helping the "religious" engaged in hospital work abroad, but who have not had the opportunity of perfecting themselves by systematic training in modern nursing, without which, even with the best intentions, it is not possible to meet the needs of scientific medicine.

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