

poor population with hardly enough to meet the necessities of food much less of sickness—and these conditions were increasing in Islington year after year. Referring to the need of increased support from churches and chapels, he said that he did not believe that the public was irresponsible to the cry of human pain if only it were brought tangibly and impressively before them. People were thoughtless, “only because they did not think.” They were apt to shut themselves up in their own affairs. A “hearty and heartfelt” vote of thanks was accorded to the devoted Superintendent and nurses.

Many hospital governors are just now holding their annual meetings, and we are glad to observe that Matrons and nursing staffs have received some well-merited thanks. Although the best work is not done with a view to appreciation, it is none the less pleasant when accorded. At the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, the Chairman of the Committee of Management, Mr. Courtenay F. Wilson, J.P., thanked the Matron, Miss Mollett, for the care she had taken of the institution; at the Bristol General Hospital the able report for the past year, presented by the Secretary, Mr. W. Thwaites, stated that the appointment last year of Miss A. E. Densham as Matron has given the Committee abundant cause for congratulation. Miss Densham soon gave evidence of the earnestness, tact, and ability with which she undertook the responsible duties of her important post. The committee are specially happy in the knowledge that Miss Densham has so soon won the confidence and affection of the nursing staff, and have every reason to be satisfied with the arrangements made for the systematic instruction of the nursing staff. The care bestowed upon this most important work by the honorary staff and the Matron is evidenced in the increased proficiency already attained, and the demand for the services of the private nurses.

At the Cottage Hospital, Surbiton, the Chairman, Mr. R. S. Bond, said that an innovation during the past year was the introduction of a “Pound Day.” The idea originated with the Matron, Miss Gough, and was enthusiastically taken up by ladies in the district, with the result that the hospital obtained a very large influx of goods and materials, and £30 5s. in cash; at the Children’s Cottage Hospital, Cold Ash, the Committee reported their good fortune in securing Miss Evelyn Hurlbatt as the new Lady Superintendent, and at the annual meet-

ing of the Ulster Hospital for Children and Women, Belfast, the medical staff in their annual report embraced the opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the skill and care of Miss Tate and her nurses.

At the first annual meeting of the Women’s Guild in connection with the West of Cornwall Miners’ and Women’s Hospital, Redruth, the report gave the following reason for the formation of this useful Guild: On the appointment of the new Matron, Miss Hollister, the hospital was found to be very bare of necessaries, and at her suggestion that this part of the hospital work might be materially helped by the formation of such a guild, it was inaugurated last March. The number of members is now 590, who contributed subscriptions and donations to the amount of £118 17s. 9d., and articles in kind of the estimated value of £66.

All of which goes to show that brains and ideas in a Matron are of definite financial value to her Committee.

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the Somerset County Nursing Association in the Municipal Hall at Taunton on Friday last. The Rev. Menzies Lambrick, of Cheddar, presided, and many of the affiliated societies were represented. The annual report stated that the work of the Association was steadily extending, and several new and interesting developments have marked its growth. Miss du Sautoy, the County Superintendent, and Miss McKay, Assistant Superintendent, have worked with unremitting ardour through a year of exceptionally stormy weather, which for them means long days of exposure to cold and wet week after week. In 1908 the Association trained 19 nurses at the cost of nearly £60 per nurse, and still had a difficulty in meeting the local needs. An appeal to the Vice-Presidents met with a very kind response, and a scheme by which sectional committees have been formed in the seven divisions of the county have resulted in increased local interest and substantial financial assistance. Mrs. Sanders, Convener of the Committee for West Somerset, has handed to the Treasurer £182, and Mrs. Arthur Hoskyns, Convener for South Somerset, £100. A good many of the local Associations now refund part or all of the cost of training on a contributory system. Miss Dyer, Q.V.J.I., Inspector for the Southern Counties, spoke of the responsibility attached to the work, and congratulated the Association on its splendid organisation and excellent officers, specially mentioning the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Mrs. Stanley.

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