

Staff Nurse £32, with uniform, washing, travelling expenses, and four weeks' holiday a year.

On Wednesday in last week a most interesting ceremony took place at the Highgate Hill Infirmary, when the annual presentation of prizes to the nurses was made by Dr. Downes, Local Government Board Inspector.

The Clerk first explained the origin of the prizes, a portion of them being from the Smalley bequest, and the others are secured through the generosity of Mrs. Leonard Marshall each year.

Dr. Downes said there was nothing more gratifying than to know how these prizes came about, and they formed a memento for time immemorial of one who was once an inmate there, and also a memento of the devoted services of a lady Guardian of Islington. He had heard it said that the Poor Law required humanising, but he considered that a trained nurse was the highest point in humanised civilisation. Poor Law advanced the lot of the poor and it was this spirit of good which imbued the nurses. Again the Poor Law never tied its probationer nurses to its own service; there was a free trade in the matter, and nurses could exercise their own free will. What the future of the Poor Law would be he did not know, but an institution of that sort, and the duties and services such as the nurses present did, would never be dispensed with, and before them lay an ever increasing sense of duty.

One of the latest additions in the offices of the Local Government Board was a lady inspector taken from a Poor Law institution and she was a great success. He concluded by wishing the nurses present success and happiness in their future careers.

Dr. Downes now presented the prizes to the successful probationers, the recipients being as follows:—

Smalley Prizes for General Excellence.—1st, a tie between Nurses Walpole and Callan. 2nd, Nurse Holloway. 3rd, also a tie between Nurses Andrews and Rogers.

Mrs. Leonard Marshall's Prizes for Practical Ward Work.—1st, Nurse Morey; 2nd, Nurse Dutton; 3rd, Nurse Graham.

Certificates.—Nurses Hawkins, McNab, Frost, Dutton, Swabey, Kavanagh, Graham, Mason, Patey, Wright, Stroud, Elsdon (Mildred), Artis, Fair, Todhunter, Elsdon (Amy), Denson, Moffit, Manning, Line, Bartlett, and Snow.

Miss Little, the Matron, thanked Mrs. Marshall on behalf of the nurses, who all appreciated her kindness very much. The prizes were a great incentive to good work, and those who had received them were worthy of them.

A Faculty of Nursing.

At the Annual meeting of the Guild of Graduates of the University of Wales, held at Aberystwyth on Saturday, Dr. Stephens, of Swansea, brought before the Guild a matter of great importance to the nursing profession, and which is calculated to have an important bearing on the future welfare of nurses.

Dr. Stephens had given notice that he would move that the Guild request the University Court to take the necessary steps to form a faculty of nursing for the conferring of degrees in the subject.

In moving his motion, the speaker said it seemed to him that such a body as the University could very well take up the question of the education, and examination of nurses, as it would raise the status of the profession, and place more value on their diploma. There was no other authority which granted these diplomas and that was all the more reason why Wales should take the lead, as it would attract a better class of person, and it would help the nurses to improve their professional prospects. At the suggestion of members, Dr. Stephens agreed to substitute "diploma" for degree.

Mr. W. J. H. Davies, M.A., pointed out that all graduates are expected to matriculate in the University of Wales, and he asked if the nurses who would work for the diploma would be of the same educational status as the women students. What particular type of nurse was it proposed to bring under the scheme?

Dr. Stephens said it would be a matter for the University. The difficulty has crossed his mind, but they could hardly expect them to pass such a stiff examination.

Dr. Chattaway, F.R.S., London, said they were all in sympathy with the proposal, but he could not help thinking it would not pass in the form in which it was brought forward. To begin with, the suggestion was not a usual one for a University, as it was entirely connected with clinical practice, and it seemed to him that the best method and procedure would be to approach the Board which controlled the question of the medical degree.

Dr. Stephens agreed to this course.

Miss Tremaine, Alexandra College, Dublin, thought it would be fatal to ask for a degree, but, as regards a diploma she agreed.

A Committee was then appointed to place the matter before the Board.

The discussion is very interesting as showing the estimation in which trained nursing is held, and the recognition of the need for systematic training.

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