

who know her will be sure that her duties were discharged in a quiet, conciliatory, and conscientious spirit throughout, though the last-mentioned quality evidently aroused a certain amount of resentment on the part of some of those who worked under her.

A most obsolete and unwise arrangement at the London Fever Hospital is that the Matron, who is a permanent officer, works under the Resident Medical Officer, who holds office only for two years, and is generally a junior member of his profession, and it is to the credit both of Miss Gregory and of the present R.M.O. that their relations have been of a friendly character. It is not so greatly to the credit of the Committee of the Hospital, from whom Miss Gregory might reasonably have expected support, that her endeavours to maintain efficiency in her department should have been so ill-requited.

It is rumoured that another Matron will not be appointed, but that each Sister will be responsible for her own special sphere. If this is the case this "go-as-you-please" method may appear to the Committee to effect a saving in the salary and emoluments of an officer of whose value they are apparently unaware, but we venture to predict there will be more than a corresponding increase of expenditure in other directions, while the patients will certainly suffer from the lack of an official head to the nursing department of the institution.

At a well attended meeting of the Beckington District Nursing Association, held recently, the advisability of securing the services of a trained and certificated nurse-midwife for the Beckington district was discussed. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Evans, Miss E. L. C. Eden, and Miss du Sautoy, County Superintendent for Somerset, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute. Miss du Sautoy, who spoke admirably, explained that there were two kinds of nurses—fully trained Queen's nurses, and village nurses with a year's training in district work. She strongly advocated the appointment of the former, and it was unanimously agreed to procure a certificated nurse-midwife for the Beckington district, and that a committee be formed to collect funds, and organise the work.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Miss Eden showed the interesting exhibits of the Nurses' Social Union in connection with district nursing, which she had kindly lent.

Professor Rankine presiding in the City Chambers, Edinburgh, at an adjourned meeting of the court of contributors to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, said that probably the

contributors would next year be asked to sanction a pension scheme for the employees, and also a revival of the present rules and regulations.

The Council of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association, says the *Scotsman*, have awarded their silver medal for bravery for saving life on land to Miss Sophie Macpherson, Westminster Training School, Queen Anne's Gate, London. On 17th March, 1909, the Princess Christian Mission in Freetown, Sierra Leone, was burned to the ground, the whole building being destroyed in 20 minutes. Miss Macpherson, who was then a Sister in the hospital, was walking through the grounds when she observed that the building was on fire. She at once ran to the hospital, and succeeded in making her entrance through the nurses' residence. The native nurses unfortunately became excited, but Miss Macpherson got the patients out of bed, and pushed and carried them down the outside stair and into a place of safety. She returned several times, in spite of the smoke and flames, and ultimately succeeded in saving all the patients (seven in number) before the arrival of outside help. Miss Macpherson, who was trained in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, has suffered much in health owing to the strain undergone in the course of her heroic efforts on this occasion.

Christmas festivities are only just at an end, and children at the Muirfield House, Gullane, Convalescent Home, N.B., had a gala day on the 19th inst., when Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw presented them with a lovely Christmas tree. The tree was dressed and managed entirely by the Misses Whitelaw, Spier, and Kynloch, all of them wearing fancy dress, which added greatly to the picturesque scene and delight of the little ones. Miss Iris Whitelaw called each child by name, when a Fairy appeared and gracefully led the child to the tree, where another Fairy gave him, or her, a toy; an Esquimaux then stepped forward with a basket of fruit and crackers, accompanied by a Flower Girl, who distributed bunches of lovely spring flowers to every child and nurse. When that was finished the young hostesses and others joined in a merry dance with the children in the Glass Room (which is the chief feature of the Home), this having been prettily decorated with evergreens and Chinese lanterns by the nurses. The music was supplied by a gramophone, kindly lent for the occasion. Mrs. Spier gave the tea, which consisted of a "lucky" cake, and all sorts of good things, with a tiny Christmas tree and "Father Christmas" on

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