

In private asylums for diseases of the nerves the salaries are generally from 50-100 marks a month. In consequence, the greater number of Sisters work in such asylums.

If the material conditions of asylum nursing are raised, and if a definite curriculum is provided for this branch of our profession, which would naturally raise its standard, we may expect that the educated woman will recognise what a great field of work is open to her among the poorest of the poor, among those deprived of their mental faculties. In these days the attempt is being made to entirely do away with the padded room, a reform already accomplished in some instances, and therefore much can be done by good nursing to soothe the alarming states of excitement by rest in bed and baths.

We must now earnestly endeavour to arrange that training courses in the nursing of those suffering from mental and nervous diseases should be accessible to some of the Sisters, as in private and parish nursing we often find the need of knowledge of the above branch of work. We often meet with cases who at the time do not need the care given in an asylum, and we do not know nearly enough how to treat such patients, in order not only to prevent their being harmed, but also, if possible, to improve their condition.

As long as our general course of training in nursing comprises only one year, it would be not only superfluous but foolish to expect in that one year instruction worthy of the name in psychical nursing. In future a general training in nursing ought to be demanded as the foundation for asylum nursing, and a special training in psychical nursing, with an examination, should be added to it.

Shall we live to see the day when the State will have enough money to pay such debts to civilisation? It would probably mean a chance of recovery for many thousands who now vegetate in asylums for want of suitable nursing!

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The President gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the Funds of the Society:—Miss Alice Pretty (late Sister Kenton, St. Bartholomew's Hospital), £1; Miss E. E. Fowler, 10s. 6d.

SPANISH RED CROSS.

Madame Alexandrina Wolf, an English lady, has been decorated by the King of Spain with the Spanish Red Cross of the Military Merit, in recognition of her heroic and charitable efforts on behalf of the Spanish troops during the Melilla campaign.

The General Court of Governors, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

"Good name in man or woman, dear my lord, Is the immediate jewel of their souls."

A General Court of Governors was held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Thursday, July 28th, at which Lord Sandhurst presided. The press are not admitted to these Courts, as they should be, so we are unable to give a verbatim account by our own representative, but the following information has been obtained from a trustworthy source:—

THE MATRON'S APPOINTMENT.

The item on the Agenda of greatest interest was to report the appointment by the Election Committee, held on May 26th, 1910, of Miss Annie McIntosh as Matron and Superintendent of Nursing.

Dr. Leonard Dobson, a medical practitioner who received his professional education at the hospital, and a Governor of the institution, thereupon moved the following Resolution:—

"That this Court of Governors regrets to learn that the Election Committee has appointed as Matron of this hospital a lady who has not received a certificate of three years' training as a nurse. This Court, therefore, is not prepared to accept the report of the said appointment, and would prefer to refer the matter back to the Election Committee for its further consideration."

The lines on which Dr. Dobson supported the Resolution were that the three years' standard of training was the standard enforced by the Governors for their own nurses for nearly thirty years, and that that period is the shortest in which a nurse can be thoroughly trained for her responsible duties (a standard laid down as long ago as 1892 by a Select Committee of the House of Lords, of which Lord Sandhurst was Chairman), that it was most inexpedient to recognise a lower standard as sufficient qualification for the Superintendent of the Nursing School, and that under the regulations of the hospital the Matron now appointed would not be eligible for the position of Sister or Staff Nurse; that the Matron should command the professional respect of the nurses whose work it was her duty to supervise; that the candidate with the highest qualifications had not been chosen; and that the age limit of 40 had just excluded several distinguished pupils of the Nursing School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He showed that the nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's had been in the van of progress and reform in connection with the Indian Army Nursing Service, the Army Nursing Service,

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