

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE
FOR NURSES.

Transfers and Appointments.—Miss Ada Wright, to Sheerness, as Senior Nurse; Miss Alice Horrocks, to Gildersome; Miss Minnie Shepherd, to Gainford; Miss Hannah Owen, to Towyn; Miss Edith L. P. Clarke, to Barford; Miss Ethel F. Wood, to Woodlands; Miss Ethel A. Coates, to Torquay; Miss Sarah Tull, to Carlisle; Miss Annie Budd, to Portsmouth, as Assistant Superintendent; Miss Catherine Williams, to Stockport, as Senior Nurse; Miss Alice Watson, to Exeter, as Senior Nurse; Miss Ann Barnett and Miss Amy Baughurst, to Exeter; Miss Gertrude Page, to Croxley Green; Miss Annie G. Barnes, to Brixton; Miss Lilian Leathley, to Eltham; Miss Lily Parker, to St. Helen's; Miss Mary Ford, to Wednesbury; Miss Sarah A. G. Lett, to Exning; Miss Edith Townsend, to Porthcawl.

A Judicial Inquiry.

At the Cornwall Asylum, Bodmin, last week, Mr. H. D. Foster held an inquiry ordered by the Lunacy Commissioners concerning the death of a woman patient as a result of scalds, which recently formed the subject of a coroner's inquiry. The Chairman read the Coroner's depositions, and also the bathing regulations in force in the Asylum, which provide that when not in use the bath taps are to be kept locked, as well as the bath-room doors. Dr. Rivers, the medical officer in charge of the case, then made a statement, and in reply to the Chairman said that assuming two patients went down to the lavatory they ought not to have had access to the bath-room, but the bath-room door was open on the occasion under consideration. Further, that it was an irregularity for one patient to be taken to the bath-room by another. The full extent of the injury to the patient Pengelly was known at about 5.30 p.m. on the day when it occurred, and she received continuous treatment up to the time of her death.

Chief Nurse Wilkinson stated that it was the duty of the nurses to accompany patients going to the lavatories to and from the wards. The nurse in charge should have done so in the case of Pengelly. About 2.30 p.m. on the day the injury occurred she was told by a nurse that Pengelly had a scald on her foot—nothing serious. She heard no more of it until six o'clock in the evening.

Dr. Layton stated that one of the nurses told him a different tale to that which she told the Coroner as to the circumstances of the accident. When he questioned her as to why she had made such a statement she replied that another nurse and others had put her up to it.

Several nurses, one of whom said she was willing to take all the blame on herself, were called before the inquiry and questioned, and as a result it was unanimously decided to discharge two nurses and to reprimand two others.

Carelessness in observing regulations, and untruthfulness, are faults which are quite inexcusable in any nurse in charge of insane patients, and may lead to grave results.

Nursing Echoes.



We learn that the Sister Superior elect of St. John's House received her professional training at St. Thomas's Hospital, and has also worked in connection with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

We are glad to notice that in his speech at the annual dinner of Bartholomew's men in the Great Hall on Monday, Mr. C. B. Lockwood, F.R.C.S., who presided, called attention to the urgent necessity for a new Nurses' Home. This necessity has been chronic for a quarter of a century. The tenements in which the nurses are housed are evidence of a callous disregard for their health and safety.

Mr. Alfred Willett, F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, contributes some interesting reminiscences to its *Journal* in an article on "The Surgical Side of the Hospital Fifty Years Ago." Referring to the nursing staff, he writes:—

"The Sisters of Abernethy or Lucas Wards, according to the sex of the patient, attended in the theatre at all the operations, one of the ward nurses accompanying the patient, taking back, after the completion of the operation, any instructions for the Ward Sister. Sister Abernethy of the time was a really splendid character, immensely respected by all. She was a Sister of the Head Beadle Ansell. Another noted surgical Sister was "Colston," to whom the nickname "Queen of Hell" was most unjustly given. A white-haired, fresh-coloured old lady, who, although she ruled her ward by fear, was in truth kind-hearted. The fact was she looked upon complaints by a patient as base ingratitude. Yet to see her every morning in the square, outside her ward, surrounded by a flock of city pigeons, which she regularly fed, settling on her head, shoulders, or arms, while she caressed them, showed she had at least one soft spot in her heart.

The Sisters belonged to what I suppose would in those days be called the "genteel" class. They came without previous hospital experience, yet, being intelligent, and fairly well educated, they quickly learnt their duties, nursing as well as official, and were devoted to their work and to the well-doing of their patients. Nurses were seldom promoted to be Sisters, for they were of the domestic servant class, mostly middle aged, and I fancy took up nursing when other occupations failed; not a few were widows. Their life was a hard one. There were three nurses to a ward, and each was on night duty one night in three; they lived, or rather herded, in the two dark, ill-ventilated rooms

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