

capacitated through ill-health from continuing their nursing career.

It is not generally known that there are yet four survivors who accompanied Miss Nightingale to the Crimea. One of these women, it is almost incredible to believe, is in the work-house, through no fault of her own; others there are who entered the calling when it seemed to hold out little prospect of adequate payment, but whose early and devoted services are reflected in standards of modern nursing, while many of those now advancing in years will stand very near this perilous position unless they can be provided for.

Even at middle age there are few appointments open to nurses who have spent their time in public service. A nurse's career is necessarily short, as the public demand the services of a young and up-to-date woman, and this leaves small margin for even a thrifty woman to provide a pension of, say, £30 a year, and near relations often claim the greater portion of her earnings.

It is for the purpose of assisting Hospital Trained Elderly Nurses that a Committee is being formed to promote a Memorial to benefit such women, to be known as the "Florence Nightingale Trust."

To this Memorandum is attached a perforated slip inviting the recipients to signify their intention of giving their names in support of the Scheme.

Practical Point.

Safety Devices for X-Rays. In the past tragic results have occurred from undue exposure to the X-rays. Operators can now be sheltered from the rays by means of lead-lined cabinets, in which the patients are put during the operation, and observe their "cases" through windows whose glass has lead in it. These safety devices are now being extensively provided in the up-to-date X-ray departments of hospitals.

Legal Matters.

AN OVERDOSE OF STRYCHNINE.

An almost inconceivable laxity in the dispensing and control of a poisonous amount of strychnine resulted in the death of a scarlet fever patient, a child of four, at the West Heath Fever Hospital, near Birmingham. At the subsequent inquest the Night Nurse, Nurse Rudge, deposed that in instructions written in the report book she was directed to give a dose of strychnine mixture to the deceased every four hours. She got the bottle usually containing the mixture from the kitchen, and administered the prescribed dose at 10.55 p.m. Shortly afterwards she found the deceased blue

and convulsed. She summoned assistance, but the child died at 11.15 p.m. The strychnine should be diluted with quinine, and she believed this was the day sister's duty. The Matron, Miss Cooper, said the doctor dispensed the medicines, and she put the bottles out for the nurses to take to their wards. She put the bottle containing the strychnine into the window sill in the passage, knowing that Sister Foley was upstairs.

Dr. Green said that he did the dispensing, and measured out 1 drachm of strychnine into a bottle. It was the duty of the day sister to fill it up with quinine. The Coroner remarked that to send out medicines half dispensed could not be defended for a moment.

Nurse Jephcott said she took the bottle from the window sill and took it up to the kitchen of Ward 4, but did not tell the Sister that she had done so.

The Coroner, in summing up, said he did not see that they could blame the Night Nurse. How such a loose system could have been in operation passed his comprehension. He considered the doctor responsible, as he had no business to send out medicine half dispensed.

The jury returned a verdict of "death from misadventure." They asked the Coroner to censure the doctor, and exonerated the Night Nurse from blame.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS AT THE SALPÉTRIÈRE SCHOOL OF NURSING, PARIS.

Madame Jacques, the Matron of the School for Nurses of the Assistance Publique de Paris at the Salpêtrière, has resigned in order to take a post as midwife in the Administration, a position she formerly held. She has been replaced by a Sister from the Hospital "La Pitié," Miss Clement, who has been for more than ten years at the head of hospital wards.

Miss Clement, who is a perfect type of the "hospitalière," unfortunately cannot take up her functions for some weeks; she is replaced by her under Matron, Miss Grenier, who has been for several months directing the School *ad interim*, and who has shown herself quite equal to this laborious task. Miss Grenier has been at the School since the foundation. She is assisted by four monitresses; two, Miss Bordet and Miss Danviray, have been chosen from among the pupils who were certificated in 1910; they are—like their colleagues, Miss Gosselin and Miss Fraval—pupils who underwent a probation at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Finally, at the reopening of the School this October, 97 new pupils were chosen as probationers.

The retirement of Mme. Jacques from the superintendence of the School, is a great loss to the institution, and will be much regretted by the pupils, by whom she is highly esteemed. Mme. Jacques is well known to many of her colleagues in this country, and they will, we feel sure, desire us to convey to her their good wishes for her success in the new work which she is undertaking, and to the new Matron of the Nursing School at the Salpêtrière on succeeding to this important position.

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