

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that as Superintendent of a Co-operation of private nurses she interviewed nurses from the majority of London hospitals, and some of them appeared to be very poor stuff. That the type of probationer was changing was due in part to evolution, which was bound to have some effect upon both men and women. For instance, the young women who took a daily constitutional in the past did not come back in the same frame of mind as the one who now skims away on a bicycle. Then character was not built up in the home in the same way as formerly; few daughters now had any home duties.

Mrs. Fenwick did not think nurses were treated entirely justly with regard to their training, too much was expected of them. The curriculum of their education was often not devised to meet their requirements. In reply to questions, nurses holding three years' certificates had told her that therapeutics had something to do with operations. They did not know the meaning of *materia medica*, could not repeat the scale of weights and measures, or say what was used to disinfect a room. On the whole, the raw material was probably as good, but required different manipulation in the home and the hospitals.

Miss Waind suggested that one of the reasons why the right type of probationers did not apply for training was that Matrons often dissuaded their best nurses from taking up private nursing. If second rate women were sent into private houses, then the daughters in those homes were not inspired to adopt nursing as a profession. She thought private nursing should be regarded as valuable experience for nurses, and that they should be welcomed back to their training schools either to take up posts, or for post-graduate work.

Amongst the points raised by other speakers were the lack of professional status, the poverty of outlook, and the lack of ideals.

Miss Mollett said that the outcome of the discussion seemed to be the clay was just as good as ever, if not better, different but just as trainable, but that the training was not as good as it should be. The President said that she thought the average of fine characters was higher, and for that reason individuals did not stand out so much.

There appeared to be a concensus of opinion that nurses were not satisfied with their training facilities and economic condition, and that this spirit naturally reacted upon their attitude to nursing generally.

A class must be justly treated if it is to be absolutely loyal.

M. B.

League News.

The Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League held their annual meeting on October 26th, and the business meeting was followed by a social gathering, known as the "penny party," as everyone was expected to bring something costing a penny. In the evening the Harvest Festival took place in the infirmary chapel, and subsequently Mr. Head, the Mayor of Chelsea, presented prizes to the nurses who had been successful in the swimming competitions, and in a very happy speech commended swimming as excellent exercise for nurses.

The following prizes were awarded:—

For winning the race for swimming four lengths of the baths: Sister Grace.

For winning the handicap and the race for those who had learnt to swim this year: Miss Kathleen Johnson.

For winning an apple scramble, the competition being to pick up the greatest quantity of apples and put them in a basket at the side: Sister Grace.

For swimming across the baths in fewest strokes: Miss Payne.

For balancing a hat whilst swimming: Miss Nankivil.

For winning the tortoise race: Miss Nankivil.

After that those present voted as to who had brought the best pennyworth in the afternoon. The prize was awarded to the competitor who brought a large plateful of the following goods: A farthing's worth of soda, a farthing's worth of salt, and a halfpenny-worth of soap. It was extraordinary how large an amount could be procured for 1d.

LEAGUE OF ST. JOHN'S HOUSE NURSES.

At the General Meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses, held on Thursday, October 27th, a letter was read from the President, Sister Charlotte, regretting her absence, and expressing her thanks to the members for their loyal support during the past nine years, and asking for the same for her successor, whose election was a part of the business of the meeting.

There were three members nominated for the position of President, and Miss Laura Baker, Lady Superintendent of the Howard de Walden Nurses' Home, received the majority of the votes and was duly elected the future President of our League.

Miss Baker will not assume office until Sister Charlotte leaves St. John's House, as it was the unanimous wish of the members to keep their

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