

the middle of the day, either a joint or a made dish. She thought more made and vegetable dishes would be appreciated. In the East End fruit and vegetables were cheap, and at the Shoreditch Home they always had two vegetables every day.

She concluded with a story of her probationer days, when a wonderful pudding was served. The Matron ate her portion without comment, the Sisters did their best, and the probationers vainly struggled with theirs. Afterwards they instituted inquiries as to the composition of the pudding and found that the plaster of Paris tin had been relegated to the storeroom as the driest place, and its contents had been used in mistake for ground rice.

MISS MORGAN, M.A.B. Matron, said that the dietary scale in Metropolitan Asylums Board hospitals was a liberal one, and the post of housekeeper an important one. She agreed that more made dishes were desirable, but if a choice of dishes were offered all the nurses often went for the same one and there was not enough to go round.

MISS BANN, M.A.B. Matron, thought that nurses should be educated in food values; the subject was very much neglected.

MISS MARQUARDT, Matron, Camberwell Infirmary, thought it would be helpful if the Committee of the National Food Reform Association would form a list of meals outside those to which nurses were already accustomed, at a cost which could be afforded by institutions.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said, presumably, in the future, when a curriculum for Matrons was defined, they would be expert dietitians as well as nurses; but for Superintendents of educational establishments to attend in detail to the duties of caterer and steward appeared excessive, although the Matron should certainly be the Superintendent of every domestic department in a hospital. Economy played so important a part in the organisation of charitable institutions that the cook was seldom adequately paid to secure first-class service. She suggested the possibility of making some central society, expert in the catering and culinary arts, responsible for the catering and cooking in our large public institutions. Such work should be done by experts and not by amateurs.

MISS HEATHER BRIGG, Charing Cross, said that Matrons were much handicapped by the provision of inferior food by contractors. Even if a cook were fairly good she could not obtain satisfactory results with inferior material. The food should be as good as was compatible with necessary economy. She thought the rivalry between institutions to show an economical balance sheet had a prejudicial effect upon the food; and a later speaker (Miss Hinton) emphasised the same point.

MISS HAUGHTON, Guy's Hospital, said variety was difficult when 200 to 300 people had to be catered for. Dishes which took much time to prepare were impossible.

Miss Buckingham (Queen's Hospital, Birmingham), Miss Curtis (Q.V.J.I. Superintendent, Hammersmith), Miss E. C. Laurence (Chelsea Hospital for Women), Miss Hulme (Lady Superintendent, Nurses' Lodge), Mrs. Parnell (Lady Superintendent, Home for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich), Miss Hinton (who has acted as Home

Sister at the London Temperance Hospital), and Miss Dodds (Bethnal Green Infirmary) also took part in the discussion.

MISS MUSSON then replied to the various points raised with admirable lucidity, and said that the ideal of a Matron should be to send out nurses at the conclusion of their training as strong as when they entered it as probationers.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the Chairman and to Mr. Hecht.

The Isla Stewart Oration.

The report of the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, at which much interesting work was considered, will appear in full next week. We may announce, however, that the suggestion made by the President from the chair that the life's work and fragrant memory of Miss Isla Stewart be kept before coming generations of nurses, by instituting an annual Oration in her honour, was received with the warmest sympathy, and agreed to by those present. It was agreed that the Oration should be given annually, for which an honorarium of £5 would be donated, and that this special Memorial, by the National Council of Nurses, should be endowed.

A Nursing Pageant.

The proposal that a Registration Reunion should be held in London early in the new year and that registrationists should demonstrate their wishes in spectacular form, appears to commend itself to the nurses' societies. The possibilities of a Nursing Pageant appear extraordinarily interesting. At meetings of the Matrons' Council and the National Council of Nurses, the suggestion has been warmly approved. It means no end of work. The Editor will be pleased to hear from those willing to help to make such a function a success, and hopes that every registrationist will book the evening of February 2nd, 1911 as an engagement which should be cancelled only by professional duty.

Irish Nurses' Association Lectures

The Irish Nurses' Association held its usual monthly meeting on November 5th, and the following programme of Lectures, arranged to be given in November and December, was approved:—

1. "The Resistance of the Body to Microbial Invasion," by W. M. Crofton, Esq., M.B.
2. "Some Points of Interest in Throat, Nose, and Ear," by T. O. Graham, Esq., M.D.
3. "Massage and Its Use in Common Ailments," by T. Douglas Good, Esq., M.D.
4. "The Spine," by T. E. Gordon, Esq., M.B.

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