

obtaining a written permit, which might be refused for any reason that seemed good to the Sister in charge. She would not like to scrub the floor of her ward, to polish the stoves, to wash bandages for hours in the hospital laundry, to carry coals, as part of the day's routine work. She would object to the scanty diet, shorn even of the regulation "egg for breakfast," to share the patients' dinner, to take her meals haphazard in the ward kitchen, to get the same unvaried dietary week in and week out. Yet all these things were the common lot of her predecessors up to the very verge of the present century, and were accepted as the usual conditions of a nurse's life in hospital. Neither ward maids nor scrubbers relieved the nurses of any part of their work, and except for chance help by convalescent patients, all had to be done by the nursing staff. Oh, there is much to learn in the way of endurance from those who have gone before us, wearing down the rough paths by constant patient treading with oftentimes very weary feet.

They can teach us also, a good deal about self-reliance. In those days, nurses had not arrived in the plural number, and an amount of work had to be done single-handed, that would be simply appalling to the modern nurse, accustomed to plenty of help in her ward. It was done thoroughly, too. I am quite sure there was more thoroughness in the performance of what you perhaps term drudgery, than there is to-day. They may not have had the glass and tile-topped tables and lockers that you have, but the plain deal furniture was scrubbed till it was well-nigh as white as snow. Patients, utensils, taps, tins, sinks, alike were scoured until they literally shone. A nurse who is reported to have described a hospital as a "collection of things requiring to be continually cleaned," was thoroughly justified in her description. Old fashioned soap and water cleanliness was much in vogue, even if surgical cleanliness was unknown. There was more pride taken in the actual doing of the work, and less quibbling about who should do it.

(To be concluded.)

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Dr. Comyns Berkeley, one of the delegates of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the Central Committee, has been elected Hon. Treasurer in place of the late Mr. John Langton, F.R.C.S.

The new President of the Matrons' Council, Miss Heather-Bigg, Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, being already a member of the Central Committee. Miss Eleanor Barton, Matron, Chelsea Infirmary, has been nominated to fill the vacancy caused by the lamented death of Miss Isla Stewart.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Victoria Hospital, Accrington.—Miss Alice E. Macdougall has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Preston, where she subsequently held the positions of Theatre Sister and Night Superintendent. She has also held the positions of Staff Nurse and Holiday Sister at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith; Sister at the Walsall and District Hospital; Night Superintendent at the Royal Infirmary, Preston; and Senior Sister at Moseley Hall, Convalescent Hospital for Children, Birmingham, where she has also done Matron's duties.

Infectious Diseases Hospital, Weston-Super-Mare.—Miss Florence H. Phillips has been appointed Matron. She was trained at University College Hospital, London, and has held the position of Matron at the Borough Isolation Hospital, Faversham, Kent.

Isolation Hospital, West Heath, Northfield, near Birmingham.—Miss Robina Morrison has been appointed Temporary Matron. She was trained at the City Hospital, Lodge Road, Birmingham, and held the position of Nurse Matron in 1905 at Birmingham Small-pox Hospital, and of Assistant Matron of the City Fever Hospital when the Small-pox Hospital closed.

NURSE MATRONS.

Beacon Hill Hospital, Faversham.—Miss Florence Whitehouse has been appointed Nurse Matron. She has held the position of Charge Nurse in the same institution.

ASSISTANT MATRONS.

West House Royal Edinburgh Asylum.—Miss Katherine M. Cameron has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the County Asylum, Durham, Leicester Infirmary, Sheffield City Hospital, and Clapham Maternity Hospital, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at Bangour Village Asylum Hospital, and has had experience of private nursing in connection with the Granville Road Home, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SISTERS.

Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex.—Miss Margaret A. Wood has been appointed Sister. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, and has held appointments at St. Luke's Home for the Dying, Pembridge Square, Bayswater, Mount Vernon Hospital, Hampstead; Aston Grays, Bournemouth; and the Home Hospital, Leicester.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSES.

Workhouse Infirmary, Norwich.—Miss Alice Mary Barnes has been appointed Superintendent Nurse. She was trained at the Union Infirmary, Birkenhead, where she has held the position of Sister. She has also been Sister at the Leith Hospital, and Superintendent Nurse at the Bridgwater Infirmary.

CHARGE NURSES.

Isle of Wight Union Infirmary, Parkhurst.—Miss R. A. Hopwood has been appointed Charge Nurse. She was trained for three years at the Union Infirmary, Rothwell, Haigh, near Leeds, and has since had experience of private nursing.

Mrs. Emily Earby has been appointed Charge Nurse in the same institution. She was trained at

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)