

rest or convalescence for Queen's Nurses in accordance with the terms of the bequest. Sanction was given whereby the Superintendents to County Nursing Associations might conduct examinations in home nursing in connection with the Red Cross Society. Affiliation was granted to nursing associations at Banstead, Surrey; Barnard Castle, County Durham; Cowlinge, Suffolk; Elloughton, Yorks; Dunshaughlin, County Meath; Buglawton (through the Cheshire County Nursing Association), Northenden (through the Cheshire County Nursing Association), Clevedon (through the Somerset County Nursing Association), Combe Martin (through the Devonshire Nursing Association), and Cudham (through the Kent County Nursing Association). An anonymous gift of £1,000 having been made to the funds of the Institute, a special vote of thanks in grateful acknowledgment to the unknown donor was passed by the Council. Thanks to the generosity of a member of the Council seats have been secured for a number of the Queen's Nurses on the route of the Coronation procession. The Council also recorded a grateful vote of thanks to the Misses Peile (Shotley Bridge) for their kind gift of £40 to the Tate (Sick) Fund.

A delightful concert was given by the Magpie Madrigal Society in aid of the funds of the Hammersmith and Fulham District Nursing Association, at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, on the evening of Thursday, May 4th. The conductor was Mr. Lionel Benson, who is resigning after 27 years' direction of the Society, and under his skilled guidance the cultivated voices forming the choir were at their very best.

The choir, presumably to emphasise the name they have adopted, wore black and white; the ladies for the most part white, or black and white dresses, and black scarves, and the men white waistcoats and white buttonholes. The soloists were Miss Violet Devoncher Jackson and Madame Marta Wittkowska, who had frequently to return to acknowledge the enthusiastic applause which followed their charming songs, and Miss Fanny Davies' pianoforte solos were received with equal pleasure.

The work of the Hammersmith and Fulham District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, is carried on by Miss Curtis, the Superintendent, and seven nurses, the funds being raised locally, although the two districts shared with

others in receiving a grant from the sum of money dedicated by Queen Victoria for the purpose of providing nurses for the sick poor. But to maintain the work amongst a population almost entirely made up of working people the requisite sum to meet the steadily increasing need for nurses has to be raised annually. There is no wealthy class, and though the inhabitants of the district show a warm appreciation of the services of their nurses a yearly deficit remains, which has to be made up from outside sources. Subscriptions or donations, however small, are thankfully received by the Superintendent, Carnforth Lodge, Hammersmith.

The wife of a vicar of 21 years' experience, herself a Life Governor of one of our largest hospitals, writes as follows:—I know the interest you take in the training and registration of nurses. May I draw your attention to what I cannot help feeling is a positive scandal.

My husband has been asked to recommend girls as "nurses" in asylums. Three of these girls have been bar-maids, one was an unsatisfactory scullery-maid, while others have had no employment. (I would not have taken any of them.)

In the event of the clergyman refusing a character, they obtain it from someone else! Anyone, it appears, is considered good enough to "nurse" a lunatic.

Now, if we shut these poor helpless creatures up in asylums, surely we are bound to provide suitable keepers? I prefer the old word. It is truthful, and does not mislead the general public. A girl of very doubtful character is taken and called a "nurse." I know of many cases where the lunatic has been cruelly treated, but there is no redress, for who will believe the word of a lunatic, against that of a "nurse?" Can anything be done to help these poor suffering creatures?

In no branch of nursing is it more absolutely essential that the nurses and attendants should be well educated persons of good character, and we are informed by several Matrons of asylums that of late years a great improvement has been effected, helped no doubt by the training necessary in many asylums to fit candidates to pass the central examination of the Medico-Psychological Association. But there are still several means by which mental nursing might be improved.

*First*, reduce hours of duty, and give more whole holidays spent out of the environment of the mentally afflicted.

*Second*. Higher remuneration for all classes

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