

wards, its staff of competent and cultivated sisters, and its training school for nurses, who, as soon as they have obtained their certificates, will be in demand to fill appointments both at home and abroad, and to contrast the present conditions with those which prevailed half a century ago, when Miss Louisa Twining began her work for the improvement of Infirmiry nursing.

Although perfection may still be the goal to which reforms are pressing forward, yet the comfort of the patients and the careful attention they receive is everywhere notable.

The St. George's-in-the-East Infirmiry contains 394 beds, and the nursing staff numbers 44, thus being slightly in excess of the Local Government Board average of a nurse to every ten patients. The sisters, who are eight in number, are many of them in charge of floors of 60 beds, and it must need a genius for organisation to keep the wards in the good nursing order which is everywhere in evidence, and to carry out the directions for the treatment of this number of patients.

In addition to the general wards for medical and surgical cases, there are maternity wards, with a convenient labour room attached, where some 60 cases are received annually; lock wards, where, alas, there are no means of detaining the patients till their cure is complete and they have ceased to be a source of infection to others; and observation wards for mental cases, so that the nurses get a considerable variety of practical work. In addition, they have lectures on the general details of nursing from the Matron, and a second course on elementary anatomy and physiology and medical and surgical nursing from the Medical Superintendent. Their term of training is for three years, when, if they have passed the necessary examinations and proved themselves otherwise satisfactory, they receive a certificate.

The present Matron, Miss Hughes, who has recently been appointed, was trained at the Mill Road Infirmiry, Liverpool, where she held the positions of Ward and Theatre Sister, and she has also been Home Sister at the Fulham Infirmiry, Hammersmith. She had experience of infectious nursing at the Monsall Fever Hospital, and is a certified midwife and an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, so that she is exceptionally well qualified for this important position.

M. B.

Congratulations to the nurses of Wisconsin, whose State Registration Bill was signed by the Governor in June, and will go into effect on September 1st.

## REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Local Government Board has issued a circular to the sanitary authorities of England and Wales suggesting lines along which it is most important that action should be taken to remove the nuisances and other conditions which favour excessive mortality among children.

Each Council should, says the circular, promptly ascertain in which parts of their district diarrhoea is especially prevalent, and should devote close attention to street and court scavenging, and to the removal of stable and domestic refuse in these areas. Without waiting for the weekly death returns, efforts should be made to obtain information of cases of diarrhoea from health visitors and others who make domestic visits, and to impress upon parents the importance of immediate treatment.

The authorities of Charing Cross Medical School have decided to send their students to King's College for the preliminary scientific training which every medical student has to undergo before he is acutally brought into touch with hospital patients.

The new out-patient department at the Hampstead General Hospital will, when complete, be one of the most up-to-date in London. If it is to be opened free of debt, the sum of £5,000 is still required, of which £2,500 is promised by an anonymous donor, provided the remainder is given during the present year.

A new research hospital, in which the Committee for the Study of Special Diseases will continue their researches on rheumatoid arthritis and allied diseases, is now in course of erection at Cambridge. The site has been presented by Miss Sykes, of Lindley, Huddersfield.

The Committee, of which Lord Dunedin is chairman, which is interested in providing a nursing home within the means of patients with moderate incomes, has been successful in raising nearly £9,000 of the £11,000 which it is estimated will be required. A site for the hospital has been purchased in Chalmers Street, and it is proposed to provide 50 beds, 18 at a guinea, and the same number at 2 guineas, and 14 at £3 3s. a week. In spite of these moderate charges, the Committee anticipate that the home will be self-supporting, and that there will be no necessity to appeal for public subscriptions.

The Committee of the Royal City of Dublin Hospital desire to express their grateful thanks to Lord Iveagh, for the generous donation of £2,000, which he has forwarded to the hospital, with the approval of His Majesty the King, out of the sum placed at His Majesty's disposal for the Dublin Hospitals.

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