

SYMPATHY WITH MISS ADDIS.

Following on the voluminous report concerning the retirement of the Matron, Miss Addis, by the Board of Management of the Chester Infirmary, Mr. B. C. Roberts, whose chivalrous conduct we warmly applaud, gives his reasons for resigning the chairmanship in a letter which riddles the arguments of the report, and calls for the publication of the reports of the Hon. Medical Staff and the House Committee, upon which the decision to call for the Matron's resignation was based.

Mr. Roberts states that because these reports were refused to Miss Addis, and she had therefore no opportunity of answering them, was his principal reason for resigning his position of chairman.

The excuse given to her was that the reports were confidential communications. No such word as "confidential" was ever breathed with respect to either of the reports before or during their preparation, and Mr. Roberts states without hesitation that they contain nothing of a confidential nature, and, further, nothing that would warrant the dismissal of the merest tyro on the staff.

Mr. Roberts considers that the action of the Hon. Medical Staff in ordering a sister to be re-instated who had been complained of by twenty nurses, and discharged by the Matron, destroyed the authority of the Matron in her rightful department.

There is no doubt that the treatment of Miss Addis by the Medical Staff and House Committee of the Chester Infirmary has aroused warm sympathy for her, not only in the nursing profession, but throughout the Press.

"LEGALLY DEAD."

We are aware that very great improvement has taken place in the care of the insane and the training of mental nurses during recent years, but from information received, and also from personal interest in the condition of several persons certified as insane, we are convinced that much more publicity is required in the conduct of places where insane persons are confined.

For the publication of the letter signed "Cath. Mary Turner" on the 2nd inst., we have, of course, received a communication marked "private" accusing us in our editorial capacity of failing to satisfy ourselves of the bona fides of the writer. May we re-assure our critic that we know much more of the circumstances

of the case than he can possibly do, judging from his bureaucratic source of information.

One of the most urgently needed reforms in our social condition, if not the most important, is the immediate appointment of women on the Lunacy Commission, and the appointment of Women Masters and Visitors in Lunacy. Moreover, women inspectors should be appointed to visit every asylum, public and private, and every house where women are placed when certified to be insane, or who require to be under medical supervision.

We heartily support the suggestion made in this week's issue by Marcia Hamilcar that an Association for the study of brain disease and the more scientific treatment of the insane should be formed.

THE IRISH NURSING WORLD.

The reports of the Irish Nurses' Association and the Irish Matrons' Association combined are issued this year in a pretty pink instead of green cover. The great event of the year has been the acquisition of a beautiful Central Home for the Irish Nurses' Association at 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, and it is pointed out that with increased accommodation the expenditure will also be higher, so that it is imperative that the membership should be increased.

We are glad to note that the Committee for State Registration is working steadily forward.

The members of the Association are to be congratulated on the successful result of their efforts for classification of nurses in the Census. In taking the Census in previous years nurses have been classed as domestic servants. The Commissioners have consented to recommend that nurses be tabulated under one or the other of the following headings:—

1. Midwife.
2. Hospital Certificated Nurse.
3. Hospital Nurse in Training (Pupil).
4. Subordinate Medical Service.

The last class will comprise all who return themselves as nurses, but not coming within one of the previous classes.

The Association has combined an interesting programme of work and pleasure.

OUR LADY OF COMPASSION.

Nurse Webber and Nurse Sexton, both well known in Wellington, New Zealand, have been received into the Order of Our Lady of Compassion at Island Bay. *Kai Tiaki* gives a touching description of the impressive ceremony.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)