

THE CEYLON NURSING ASSOCIATION.

STAR CHAMBER DISCIPLINE.

To judge from a copy of a report presented by a sub-committee to the Executive Committee of the Ceylon Nursing Association—which has reached us—we may as well suggest that the sooner the Association adopts a more sensible attitude towards the members of the nursing staff the better, or elects a new committee which realises that public confidence cannot be maintained in the management of lay persons who listen to rumours, and in consequence distrust and publicly insult their professional nursing staff.

From the sub-committee's report we cull the following suggestion given to the public Press:—

Your sub-committee have carefully considered the complaints and rumours of complaints made against some of the nursing staff, and are of opinion that the Chairman should communicate with the Colonial Nursing Association in the matter.

Your sub-committee would also suggest that a lady of the Executive Committee be asked to examine periodically the reports sent in by employers of nurses, and when necessary speak to erring nurses, and that a type-written circular be sent out with each nurse in which it is stated that as rumours of complaints against nurses have reached the Committee, each employer is particularly requested to send a full and definite report upon the nurse's work and conduct, and that the Committee has arranged that these reports shall be seen at intervals by a lady member of the Committee, who will if necessary reprimand the nurse whose work or conduct has been unsatisfactory.

The sub-committee's recommendation that the reports of nurses' employers should be submitted to a lady member of the Executive Committee was adopted, and Mrs. R. H. S. Scott was unanimously requested to undertake the supervision of the reports, which she consented to do.

The qualifications of Mrs. Scott for alone discriminating in professional disputes between patient and nurse are not put forth. We consider, however, that the Colonial Nursing Association owes it to all nurses it proposes to engage for service with the Ceylon Nursing Association, to place before them the Star Chamber methods by which it intends to enforce discipline; methods which are calculated to invite complaints from patients and undermine their confidence in the nursing staff. We advise well-trained certificated nurses, with a professional reputation to lose, to avoid joining

the Ceylon Nursing Association until Mrs. Scott has been relieved of penalising jurisdiction concerning their work and conduct.

Discipline should be maintained by the Matron, and, failing her, the committee as a whole.

We are pleased to note that the local Press condemns the publicity given to the matter in the following sensible paragraph:—

In Ceylon, the fully qualified nurses have always given an example of devotion to duty, hard work, and good behaviour, and that this reputation, which is the "birthright," so to say, of all nurses, should be spoiled by publicly mentioned complaints, is undesirable and regrettable.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The opening ceremony of the handsome new pavilion, which will form an important addition to the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, says the *Glasgow Herald*, is to be performed by Sir James Barr, M.D., LL.D., on Friday, October 13th. The new wing being practically a continuation of the south of the portion which was erected four years ago, its architectural features are in entire consonance. Standing four storeys high, with attics, it has a total length of 370 ft., and being built of white freestone has a bright and imposing appearance. The south wing provides accommodation for nearly 100 patients, and one of its main external features is the fine series of open-air balconies which face the south and west and are now regarded by all authorities as an essential part of modern hospital architecture. The new wing contains three large wards, one of which is to be named the William Robertson Ward, after its donor, and two lesser wards, the M'Call Anderson Memorial Ward and the A. B. Buchanan Memorial Ward, both of which are to be devoted to the special treatment of skin diseases. In addition there are requisite offices, side wards, residents' rooms, bath-rooms, patients' washing-room, and linen room.

The large wards are bright and spacious. The walls are hollow and tiled to a height of 6½ ft. from the floor. The upper walls and the ceiling, which is concave in formation, are composed of hard plaster, finished with enamel paint. The floors are fireproof, and are finished in polished teak parquetry. The heating of the wards is on the "Reck" system. There is a radiator under each window, with a direct air inlet, and at the top of the building is a slow-moving fan, which can be used as required for the extraction of vitiated air. The wards are furnished with beds known as the balcony beds, fitted with a third wheel, which can be put into action and the beds removed to the balcony without disturbing the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)