

trained at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, proceeding to Kienning, also spoke, and Miss A. E. Aldritt, trained at King's College Hospital, referred to the work to be done by League members at home in starting branches in hospitals. A nurse should not be content to be the only member in a hospital.

Miss Burrage returning to Nyasaland, in connection with the Universities' Mission, spoke briefly of its work, and described the journey from the coast to the Lake. She emphasized the necessity for language study, and spoke of the irritability engendered by the climate, and of the need for mutual forbearance, for the tendency of a few workers, living together almost, under a microscope, was to become critical and irritable.

#### LANTERN ADDRESS.

Mr. A. T. Kember, F.R.C.S., of Hangchow, then gave a most interesting lantern address, the slides being remarkably fine, and the closing address was given by Dr. Henry T. Hodgkin, now secretary of the Friends' Mission in London, who spoke of the enrichment of the lives of the missionaries themselves, owing to the friendships and fellowship with other races gained in the course of their work.

#### A NOTABLE APPOINTMENT.

We most heartily congratulate the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association upon its selection of a new President. To this honourable position it has elected Miss Ayres, Matron, for many years, of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. Upon its formation in 1899 the State Association of Trained Nurses selected an eminent physician, Dr. Springthorpe, for its President, who recently retired after loyal service upon behalf of trained nursing in Victoria. But there cannot in these days be any doubt that the President of a Nurses' Association should be an experienced trained nurse in whom her colleagues have complete confidence. It has always been somewhat of a mystery to the trained nurses of the world why Australasian nurses have not before realised the duty of self-government, and the selection of Miss Ayres may be looked upon as a very happy augury for the future status of nursing in Victoria. Of Miss Ayres' professional work it may be said that no one has done more to raise nursing to a high standard than this lady, who, as the senior Matron in Melbourne, is beloved and respected throughout the State. Miss Ayres was one of the original founders of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, and has worked loyally and effectively for its success.

## THE ASYLUM OFFICERS BILL.

### THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

(Continued from page 289.)

The evidence given before the Select Committee on the Asylums' Officers (Employment, Pensions and Superannuation Act) is of much interest.

The chief points on which the Committee interrogated the witnesses were:—

The restriction of hours.

The qualification for superannuation allowance.

The regulations under which officers and servants are dismissed.

The aggregation of service.

The calculation of salary.

#### THE LUNACY COMMISSION.

The views of the Lunacy Commission were given by Dr. Marriott Cooke, one of its members, who commenting on the provisions of Section 1, Sub-section (2) (which provides that the Visiting Committee shall have a notice affixed in a conspicuous place in the asylum, notifying the times at which the employment of attendants and nurses shall begin and end on each day of the week, and that no such person shall be employed in the service of the asylum except between the time so fixed with respect to him), said that these provisions appear arbitrary, and might in practice be found highly inconvenient, and that the character of the work involved demanded to be specially taken into account.

Dr. Cooke in the course of his evidence, informed the Committee that "there is largely throughout England and Wales an increasing difficulty in getting suitable persons to enter asylum service and carry on the duties of attendants and nurses as a permanent calling. In some districts more especially persons have to be engaged who are either too young or are neither physically nor mentally up to the adequate standard, and in many asylums the changes among the attendants and nurses are far too frequent. The work of attending on the insane is wearing, not free from dangers and indignities, and calls for the exercise of the qualities of intelligence, tact and patience, which are by no means common. It is, therefore, of the first importance to the welfare of the insane to attract well-qualified persons to the service of the asylums, and to retain them therein when by experience their service has become valuable. To this end it is essential that the hours of duty should not be unduly prolonged, and that the scheme of superannuation should be on fairly liberal lines. Neither of these matters can in their present position be regarded as altogether satisfactory, the number of hours of duty in not a few instances being very excessive." The witness, in reply to a question from the chairman as to whether there had been complaints as to the length of hours, said that he had never had

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)