

The Erpingham Guardians apparently attribute to all women the perpetual youth of Ninon de l'Enclos, much to the indignation of one T. Pank, with whose letter to the press we are in sympathy. The Guardians have just awarded a gratuity of £105 to a nurse who was engaged at the age of 60, who declined to subscribe to the superannuation fund, who held this comfortable billet (all found) for thirteen years, and was then given this sum to buy herself an annuity at the age of 73! The fact that this Board of Guardians consider a woman from 60 to 73 years of age a proper attendant on poor sick people is one reason for disapproval. T. Pank has addressed the Local Government Board on this matter, and we do not blame him.

Scottish nurses are very easily encouraged to take plenty of interest in games, and an interesting tennis contest took place on July 13th at the Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, between the nurses and those of the Gartloch Hospital. Victory was with the Stobhill team, and all thoroughly enjoyed the contest.

In connection with the memorial to King Edward VII. in South Africa, which is to take the form of the institution of an Order of Nurses, two separate funds are to be opened: (1) for subscriptions from Europeans; and (2) from coloured people. In a letter addressed to the Mayor of Johannesburg on the subject, Lady Gladstone says that much time has unavoidably been spent in ascertaining the general wish of the people of South Africa with regard to the form of the memorial, and it is important, on every ground, that none should now be lost in giving effect to their decision. It is proposed that branches of the new Order shall be established at appropriate centres in each province, with special regard to facility of railway communication. Each branch will be under the supervision of a Matron, and the nurses selected will be required to possess the qualifications in general nursing and midwifery requisite for registration in any part of the Union, and, as far as possible, to have had experience of South African conditions.

It is not proposed to interfere with the work of private nurses, but to bring skilled nursing within the reach of those wholly or partially unable to pay for it.

A general executive is to be formed, responsible for the administration of the Order. So far it does not appear that a registered nurse, who alone is qualified to give expert advice on nursing matters, is to be included in this Committee.

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

We are glad to learn that his Majesty King George V., in recognition of the beneficent work of the Huddersfield Infirmary, has assented to the addition of the word "Royal" to its title. Although we have never visited this busy hospital, the first Staff Nurse under whom we worked as a probationer at Nottingham 33 years ago was trained there, and a more expert surgical nurse we have never met. She possessed what may be termed the surgical sense of grip—nothing escaped her accurate eye, or her dexterous manipulation.

The new Ealing Hospital was opened on Saturday by Princess Christian, who said that by command of the King, the hospital would be known as the King Edward Memorial Hospital. Lord George Hamilton, who was accompanied by Lady George Hamilton presided. Dr. Patten, the only surviving member of the original Ealing Cottage Hospital medical staff, and Miss Lee, the first Matron of the Hospital, were present. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Kensington.

A deputation waited on the President of the Local Government Board last week to present a memorial urging that effect should be given, by detention or some form of compulsory treatment, to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws for the detention in Poor Law institutions of persons suffering from venereal disease, when medically certified to be dangerous to others. The memorial was promoted by a men's committee, and signed by a number of women, including Princess Christian. The deputation was introduced by Mr. C. N. Nicholson, M.P., and was accompanied by Dr. A. Hillier, M.P., both of whom spoke in support of the memorial.

Mr. John Burns, in reply, quoted figures showing the marked diminution in venereal disease which has occurred during recent years, and, whilst holding out no hope of legislation empowering detention, assured the deputation that he would by administrative action do all in his power to promote the cure and to stay the progress of venereal disease.

Far greater facilities are urgently required for remedial treatment of persons suffering from venereal diseases. At present no serious attempt is made to cope with these infectious diseases. The aim should be free treatment without a stigma attached. Why does not the Metropolitan Asylums Board use one of its empty hospitals for this purpose?

The Department of Health of New York City has asked the Board of Estimate for an appropriation for a hospital for the treatment of venereal diseases, and has declared the sanitary control of such diseases to be necessary for the protection of the public health. Thus New York may look forward to having a definite plan for controlling this as well as its other communicable diseases.

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