

defined that the officials of either department can be blamed for the delinquencies of the other; yet, to judge from a heated discussion by the Birkenhead Town Council, this is apparently the case.

The neglect complained of was the verminous condition of a little boy patient's head at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, which upon being inquired into by the Matron was found to be true—also that many of the other children in the same ward were suffering from the same lack of cleanliness. Thereupon the Matron discharged the staff nurse, and the charge nurse was told to send in her resignation. The next step was a private inquiry upon the part of two members of the Council—Messrs. Willmer and Campbell—who catechised the Matron as to her duties and those of the medical officer of health.

At the meeting aforesaid these gentlemen were surprised that this serious matter was treated with scant criticism, considering such negligence was a public danger, and they were accused of a deep-laid scheme to get rid of the medical officer—one of the most experienced medical officers in the country—to whom it was absurd to attach the responsibility for the state of the children's heads.

Our sympathies are with those Councillors who realise that filth and pediculi are a very serious and disgusting danger to children convalescent from various infectious diseases, and with respectable parents of poor children who run the chance of infection. The cleanliness of the patients is the nurse's duty, and the supervision of the nurses the matron's duty. What is evidently required at the institution alluded to is stricter nursing supervision, and this, we hope, will be recognised in the future.

The affairs of the nursing department at the Adelaide Hospital, South Australia, have caused a ferment in that State, and strong expressions of opinion in the Australasian nursing journals. It seems 70 probationers forwarded complaints against a Sister to the Chief Secretary. Now an inquiry is being held by the committee of the hospital, and the nurses wished for legal representation, which they have been refused; they then asked that the inquiry should be made by an independent Board; and as that has been refused they wish that one of their number should represent their interests on the Hospital Board. When things arrive at this stage, it is time to elect a new Board of Management and begin afresh.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### THE CHELSEA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

No class of patients need greater skill in treatment, or more sympathetic nursing, than the gynæcological cases which throng our out-patient departments, and whose permanent recovery, and even life, depends upon their prompt and skilful treatment, while a very limited number of beds in general hospitals are available for this purpose.

The special hospitals for the diseases of women are therefore doing excellent work, and amongst these the Chelsea Hospital for Women, in the Fulham Road, ranks high, though the fifty beds at its disposal are far too few for the urgent cases waiting for admission, and an increase in their number is imperatively needed. This means its rebuilding on another site, and, indeed, a quieter site is very desirable, for both front and back are noisy, and the many serious operation cases need quiet surroundings. We are glad to know that there is a likelihood of rebuilding in the near future, as Earl Cadogan, as we have already reported, has generously given a valuable site of an acre and a quarter near the present hospital, and the Trustees of a Charitable Trust have conditionally promised £10,000 towards the new building. This will enable the out-patient department, which is at present quite inadequate for the demands upon it, to be enlarged, and also new nurses' quarters to be provided—and proper accommodation for the nurses is urgently needed. But enlargement not only means that the expense of rebuilding will have to be met, but that a permanent increase of income will be needed for the upkeep of a larger institution. Not only, therefore, must the friends of the hospital rally round it, but they must secure fresh interest and support if its good work is to be permanently increased.

Nothing could more strongly support the claim of the hospital for liberal assistance from the charitable public than the enthusiasm and gratitude expressed by the patients for the treatment and attention they receive there. "The nurses work hard," said one; "very hard, but they are good. They don't mind how hard they work, night nor day, so long as they can nurse you well, and make you comfortable and happy." And the other patients in the ward endorsed her remarks in chorus. This was a quite unsolicited testimony, given out of full hearts, in all gratitude, to a casual visitor on the occasion of the Christmas entertainment,

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