

to the Board, as honorary secretary *pro tem*. Of the Poor Law Unions in the conference area, embracing the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, and Westmorland, which train nurses, Newcastle is the largest, and under the proposed standardization scheme it is intended to have a syllabus or course of lectures for probationers, who would be examined by a representative examination board, appointed or nominated by the Unions affected in the conference area. A supplementary suggestion is that there should also be a grading or grouping of hospitals for certain periods of training. The idea is to try and introduce a system of training not at present available in the smaller Unions. It is asserted that probationers in the small Unions are little more than attendants after three years' training, and thus they are precluded from securing the best posts in the large Unions. The coming conference is being anticipated with interest among Guardians in the four northern counties.

Mr. William M'Donald (president) occupied the chair at the quarterly meeting of delegates of the Edinburgh, Leith, and District Friendly Societies Council recently held in Edinburgh. Mr. P. S. T. Linkie submitted details of a proposed working scheme for a Scottish Branch of the Queen's Jubilee Nursing Institution. The scheme provides that all those producing insurance books showing membership in societies assenting to the scheme would be attended, except in midwifery cases, by nurses of the nursing associations who came into the scheme, under the directions—after the first visit—of registered medical practitioners. Such societies would pay 3d. a year in respect of each of their members resident in areas covered by the assenting nursing associations. The moneys so paid would be administered by a Committee for each county or county burgh, who would distribute the money so received among the nursing associations assenting to the scheme, in proportion to the net cost of the work done on behalf of insured persons, or to the total expenditure by the different associations. The assenting societies would be entitled to representation on the special committee for each county or county burgh, provided that a certain number of members were being paid for.

The Corporation of Glasgow will, at the Town Council Meeting to be held on November 5th, consider a motion by Councillor Lyon, who will propose that the hours of the nurses employed in the various Corporation Hospitals be reduced from a twelve-hours' to a ten-hours' shift.

## REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Presiding at the Annual Dinner at the Waldorf Hotel, of the Westminster Hospital Medical Students' Club, Mr. Walter J. Spencer, F.R.C.S., said that the question of whether the Westminster Hospital would have to be rebuilt on its present site and maintain its present goodwill, or whether it would have to be moved elsewhere—and, if so, whether it would lose its name, or what would happen to it—had to be seriously considered by the House Committee and the hospital staff.

The treasurers of the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Charity have received a further anonymous donation of £125.

The Chelsea Hospital for Women has received £25 10s. towards the Rebuilding Fund from Messrs. David Sassoon & Co., Ltd.

Dr. Jane Walker has been demanding a new form of celebration for the King's birthday. In the course of her address at the opening of the winter session of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, she expressed the view that the authorities of the King's Fund ought to make a bonfire on His Majesty's Birthday of all hospital letters. Such letters, she said, assumed the vanity of the small subscriber and played up to it. They were a survival of the bad Georgian days of patronising the poor, and nothing could justify them unless it were the existence of people who would not subscribe for the maintenance of Heaven without an annual report and the right to recommend four souls for immediate admission.

A scheme is being prepared, and a public appeal for funds will shortly be made, for the foundation in Birmingham of a hospital for the treatment of diseases of the nervous system, paralysis, and epilepsy. A committee have been at work for some time making the preliminary arrangements.

The promoters of the scheme state that a new hospital of this kind is necessary to meet the rapid growth of nervous complaints, daily becoming more numerous owing to the exigencies of modern life, and to afford greater opportunities for treatment which is difficult and almost impossible without a special hospital. London, it is pointed out, has three special nerve hospitals, each one being largely attended without interference with any of the important and powerful general hospitals, and as many of the patients come from the provinces it is felt by the promoter that Birmingham should not be behind London or any other large town in hospital accommodation of this kind.

As the result of the generous benefaction of a local resident who desires to remain anonymous, Chiswick has been equipped with a general hospital on the most up-to-date lines.

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