

PRESENTATION.

Sister Mullally, of Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, who has resigned to accept a partnership and matronship of Alma House Private Hospital, Mountjoy Square, Dublin, was recently the recipient of presentations from the Governors and from the staff of Dr. Steevens' Hospital—a cheque from the Governors and a handsome silver tea service and case of spoons from the staff. Miss B. M. Kelly, Lady Superintendent, in a very complimentary speech, acknowledged Sister Mullally's meritorious work in the hospital. The Governors, she said, regretted very much the loss of her services, and at the same time wished her every success, and in making the presentation from the staff she conveyed to Sister Mullally the unqualified good feeling which she carried with her. Sister Mullally replied briefly, expressing her thanks to the Governors and staff, and her regret at severing her connection with the hospital.

HOW THE POOR SUFFER.

The inquiry held by Mr. S. Ingleby Oddie, Coroner for the South-West District of London, into the death of two babies at a Home at Lessingham Avenue, Upper Tooting, a branch of the Walworth Crèche, elicited the facts that four children had died at the Home within a week (one from broncho-pneumonia) and that *neither of the "nurses" were trained.*

Mrs. Kinghorne, Hon. Secretary and Superintendent, admitted that she had told Mrs. Bailey to keep expenses down, but she did not mean in regard to firing and food. Mrs. Bailey, the Assistant Matron, said she was not a trained nurse and had had no experience in looking after children, and Mrs. Millican, a "nurse," in her evidence said that her wages were 6s. a week, out of which she had to buy her own food and get her washing done. Miss O'Donnell, L.C.C. Inspector said she was told by Mrs. Bailey that Mrs. Kinghorne did not allow fires, and she was paying for fuel out of her own pocket.

Dr. Legge, of Lessingham Avenue, gave evidence that he became doctor to the Home some weeks ago, on an invitation, by letter, from Mrs. Kinghorne. He had never been called upon to inspect the Home. He considered a Home of the kind should be inspected regularly by a medical man, and have at least one trained nurse.

The jury in their verdict said that Mrs. Kinghorne was deserving of the severest censure, and that the doctor should have paid more attention to the Home after accepting the post, with which the Coroner concurred.

We agree with the verdict, and consider that before accepting the post the doctor should have visited the Home, and satisfied himself that it was in the charge of a trained nurse. The poor and their children suffer because there is at present no legal standard of trained nursing, so that totally ignorant persons can assume not only the title but the responsible duties of the trained nurse.

For this perilous condition the Legislature which fails to deal with the question of nurses' Registration and the opponents of the Bill with that object, are primarily to blame.

BEQUESTS TO NURSES.

A number of bequests to nurses and others were made by Mr. James C. Russell, of Haslemere, who left estate of the value of £166,305.

An annuity of £25, as well as £25, goes to his nurse, Harriet Spooner, annuities of £25, £15, and £21 respectively to Nurses Agnes Macdonald, Winifred Crown, and Mildred Turner. £40 is left to Hilda Scrase, Sister, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and a silver watch to Nurse Walton.

SOCIAL SERVICE.

A PLEA TO NURSES, FOR THE ILLEGITIMATE.

This is a subject generally ignored by the general public, and no pity is wasted on the poor, ignorant and frightened mothers whose tragedies are reported daily in the newspapers, which occur when they are confronted with the double necessity of earning their own living and supporting, somewhere and somehow, the being whose needs are a sealed book to them. The mother is too often mentally or morally defective. Even when normal she is warped seriously in character by resort to concealment and subterfuge for an extended period. A hundred influences for ill are at hand to drag her down, and to prejudice her against those who could help her effectually. The natural instincts of motherhood, so strongly fortified in family life, are exposed to more violent impulses of fear and self-preservation, with the result that in too many instances they are weakened, if not overwhelmed; all this reacts for ill on the infant.

The defective mother must continue, until the State consents to recognise her existence, to contribute to the ills of society; for her, under existing conditions, little can be done, save keep an eye on her and her unhappy infant.

But for the normal mother who has missed marriage something may, and must, be attempted. She needs instruction, and such help as she can be brought, on regaining a niche in the world as a breadwinner. The tie between her and her infant needs to be fostered, and the interests of the child require safeguarding at the same time that the burden on the mother is lessened. It cannot be doubted that the influence of women who work assiduously in the hospital and on the district where these children are born is responsible, to a great extent, for the decline in the illegitimate birth-rate, for it is mainly ignorance which lures these girls to surrender their natural guerdon as wives.

Of the child, it must be said that, generally born sickly and removed from the protection of family life, he is, at best, a grievous burden to be borne, instead of a source of pride, and at the worst he is hustled out by ignorance, neglect, or intention.

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