

treated his employees as the Infirmary Committee treated their nurses, they would cry "Shame" about it.

Mrs. N. W. Williams seconded the amendment, remarking that the nurses were worked too hard for efficiency.

Mrs. A. Smith, speaking from her experience of Erdington Infirmary, asserted that Mr. Carter was not sufficiently acquainted with the facts, and said the nurses were quite happy and contented and not overworked.

Mrs. Williams retorted that she knew of several cases of breakdown among nurses at Erdington.

The amendment was defeated by 39 votes to 4.

Considering that there are 1,450 beds in the Birmingham Infirmary, of which the average number occupied is 1,126, and to cope with this number of sick people the nursing staff consists of 27 sisters, 45 staff nurses, and 45 probationers, without further ado we may claim that the nursing service is scandalously insufficient. Imagine 72 trained nurses and 45 probationers being provided to nurse 1,450 persons. Now is the time for the Matron to come forward and dispute such assertions as that made by Mrs. A. Smith that the nurses were "quite happy and contented, and not overworked." If under such conditions this is true, it is because the standard of nursing is far below par, and the patients neglected. This, we learn, is not the case throughout the infirmary. The overstrain of the nursing staff must result if 117 women, many of them young girls, attempt to do their duty to the 1,126 patients and keep in order 1,450 beds.

Dr. Hecker's treatise on the Overstrain of Nurses is now in the press, and will soon be issued in pamphlet form. Let us hope the Birmingham Guardians will read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it, and that the whole Board will support the demand of the courageous minority of four for more humane treatment of the nursing staff.

Nurses' Social Union members in various parts of the country will be interested to hear that a N.S.U. Club Room has been established at Weston-super-Mare, in George's Café, High Street. This is a cheerful room with writing materials, and refreshments can be obtained at a specially reduced rate. Members must wear the official badge to obtain admission. As Weston-super-Mare is a popular health resort to which many nurses go, the

members of the Weston Branch felt that it would be an act of comradeship if they extended the hospitality of the Club Room to fellow-members from other branches. It would be a valuable development of the work of the Union if Club Rooms could be established in other places.

The risks which nurses encounter in the discharge of their duty were demonstrated at the Box Station to the horrified spectators last week, when a nurse belonging to the Kingsdown House Asylum, Miss Holley, was waiting on the platform with a lady patient for a local train to Bath. Suddenly, as an express approached the patient jumped on to the permanent way, and tried to lay her head on the metals. The nurse immediately jumped after her, and struggled with her until the train was upon her, when she sprang to safety. The patient persisted in clinging to the line, and was cut to pieces.

Miss Holley deserves warm praise for her courageous attempt to save her patient's life.

The Glasgow and West of Scotland Co-operation of Trained Nurses held its twentieth annual meeting in the Charing Cross Halls last week, when the President, Lady Stirling-Maxwell, was in the chair. The report stated that the number of nurses at present on the Roll is 182. The number of cases attended during the year was 1,960, and the amount earned by the nurses £12,437. The financial statement showed that the total income for the year was £1,584 15s. 2d., and that there was a surplus of £243 7s. 5½d.

The adoption of the reports was moved by the Right Hon. the Lord Provost, Mr. D. M. Stevenson, who said that by means of the Society the employer and employed were able to get into touch with one another, and thus nurses were able to get regular employment, and the public good nurses.

On the motion of Dr. James A. Adams, who spoke in eulogistic terms of the work of the nurses, the office bearers were re-elected. Mrs. Ross Taylor was appointed an additional Vice-President, and Nurses Arnott, Grace Kennedy, Jessie Macpherson, and Margaret Mackay were elected members of the Executive Committee in place of nurses retiring by rotation.

The *Canadian Nurse* has several interesting announcements this month. First of all, that the nurses of British Columbia have recently organized a strong Provincial Association with

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)