

also taken steps in this direction. We are of opinion that it is the duty of the Government to provide an adequate Nursing Service, and, if necessary, to make such a Treasury Grant as may be necessary to put the scheme on a sound financial basis.

#### NURSING SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr. Charles Bathurst, M.P. (*Chairman*), Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss A. M. Florence, Mr. A. W. Barrand, Mr. Alban Gordon (*Hon. Secretary*).

### NURSING IN WORKHOUSES.

Appended is the report of Miss L. M. Wamsley, one of the inspectors of the Local Government Board, on the sick wards and nursery of the Newmarket Union Workhouse, after a visit on May 2nd, 1913. We refer to it in our editorial columns:—

#### MISS WAMSLEY'S REPORT.

I visited this infirmary on May 2nd, 1913.

The number of certified beds is 111. The number now given in the wards was given to me as: Male 55, female 56, cots 3; maternity 4, cots 3; total 121.

The number occupied is: Male 47, female 49, cots 4; maternity 2, cots 2; total 104.

The sick wards.—On the day of my visit there were 33 bed-fast patients, 3 of whom were in a dying condition. A male inmate sits in the men's ward at night. There were four mental cases, and one patient dying from cancer, as well as incontinent cases in three wards.

On the female side the following cases were noted: One acutely septic maternity case on the balcony, with baby very ill; one woman dying of cancer; one dying baby; one case of deep sloughing bed sore needing hourly attention; one old woman with severe contraction of limbs, bed-sores and bronchitis; one case of paralysis, with heel sore; one case of acute epilepsy in a padded bed; one lunatic girl in a padded bed in side ward; three certified lunatics from the House sleeping in the sick wards "for safety"; four babies bottle fed; eight incontinent cases; one upstairs ward filled with blind and paralysed patients too helpless for the House.

The scrubbing and cleaning is done by inmates, who need much more supervision than the present staff is able to devote to the work.

The spring mattresses were invariably dusty and the bedside chairs offensive.

There was evidence of methodical work on the part of the Matron and nurses, but nursing, in any proper sense of the word, is not possible with this inadequate staff.

When the nurse leaves on the 6th inst. one night nurse will, I was informed, be responsible for 104 patients, and the proportion of patients to nurses on day duty is now 52.

I consider that an immediate increase of staff is urgently necessary. I would suggest the appoint-

ment of two fully-trained charge nurses for alternate day and night duty and three assistant nurses.

The Nurses' Home.—The nurses' rations do not contain a supply of fruit.

The Nursery.—The conditions for the twelve babies under three are entirely unsatisfactory. The Matron and her assistant do their best to supervise the inmates who look after the children. The babies receive no attention at night, and are constantly found sleeping in bed with their mothers. All bottle-fed babies are transferred to the infirmary, thus adding to the pressure of work in the sick wards.

The nursery, though unsuitable for children, was clean, having lately been colour-washed.

The courtyard where the babies play is now being levelled with ashes, and the children have no other place to get fresh air.

The arrangements for the boys and girls of school age are most undesirable, but I was informed that they will shortly be provided for outside the House.

### LEAGUE NEWS.

#### THE ROYAL SOUTH HANTS HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

Miss Mollett, founder of the Royal South Hants Hospital Nurses' League, of which she has been President since 1902, has resigned that office; and Miss E. B. Harradine (the present Matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital) has been elected to succeed her. As Miss Mollett has now retired from active nursing service, she is of opinion that the change of Presidents will make for the best interests of the League; but we feel sure her resignation will be received with sincere regret—and it will be the earnest hope of every member of the League that she will continue to take an active interest in its work and welfare.

Miss Harradine was trained at Guy's Hospital—at which hospital, the nurses have a most active League—so that she will no doubt carry on the good work at Southampton in the most acceptable manner.

Nothing can keep up the tone of a training school without the encouragement of *esprit de corps*, and the formation of Nurses' Leagues inculcate this desirable spirit.

### WEDDING BELLS.

The engagement is announced of Miss F. Haslam, who has just resigned the Matronship of the Women's Hospital, Castlegate, Nottingham, to Mr. James Watson, M.B., C.M. Glas., M.R.C.S. Eng. Miss Haslam won golden opinions during the short time she held the position of Matron; and Mr. Watson, who is Assistant Hon. Surgeon to the Women's Hospital, is very popular.

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