

dent nurse, any probationer nurse during her period of training shows a decided aptitude for her profession, the committee recommend the Board to increase the maternity prize by continuing her salary and emoluments during the three months necessary for her to attend cases in conformity with the regulations of the Central Midwives' Board provided the probationer nurse extends her probationary period to three years and three months in the service of the Guardians, the last three months salary to be at the same rate as that of the third year."

This method of recognizing good work is sure to be appreciated by the nursing staff.

Opening a sale of work at Turriff promoted by the Monquhitter and Byth Nursing Association, Mr. Ainslie D. Ainslie of Delgaty said that all who had properly considered the matter must see how important it was to establish district nurses all over Scotland, and even more so to support these undertakings when already set on foot. To maintain such on a safe pecuniary basis, not subscriptions alone but also the gradual formation of endowment funds was necessary, so that the nurses might be retained all the year round and countless contingencies provided against which would not unfrequently wreck the scheme entirely. This was what they were striving to bring about in the neighbouring parish of Monquhitter, where an excellent beginning had been made, and where two very good nurses in two following seasons had brought the most unbelieving to see the value and importance of the movement, in untold cases of slight illness and of accidents demanding instant care.

The Red Cross Exhibition to be held in Aberdeen in October, of which details are given on page viii of our Supplement, promises to be of much interest. Our readers will note that many competitions will be open to nurses only, particulars of which will be announced later.

On Thursday in last week members of the Ulster branch of the Irish Nurses' Association had a most successful picnic tea at Dundrod. They met at Donegall Square North, Belfast, and drove in brakes to the rendezvous.

It is suggested, writes Miss Dock, that the next meeting of the International Council of Nurses in 1915 would present a very suitable and happy opportunity for the nurses of the world to contribute their offerings for the

memorial to Florence Nightingale proposed at Cologne; the memorial to take the form of an Educational Foundation in London, under the general auspices of the organized profession of nursing.

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## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

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### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, W.C.

#### MATERNITY WORK.

The maternity department at University College Hospital consists of an obstetric ward of eight beds, as well as of the district practice within a certain radius of the hospital, now slightly enlarged by the removal of King's College Hospital to Denmark Hill. It is an interesting fact that the Dispensary, which was the nucleus of the great hospital which now extends its benefits far and wide, was originally founded with the object of rendering help to women in child-birth, so that the inclusion of maternity cases amongst those which benefit by its help carries out the intention of its original founders.

In the maternity ward the work is so organized that the midwifery students attend the cases in the day time, and the pupil midwives, two of whom have just passed the examination of the Central Midwives Board, at night.

In the district work it has always been the practice of the hospital for maternity nurses to visit and nurse the students' cases, a system which might well be adopted by all hospitals. The district assigned to the pupil midwives—who get part of their cases and experience in this way under the supervision of a midwife, attached to the hospital, in the same way that the ward cases are in charge of a supervising midwife—is quite distinct from that in which the students work, so that, except when cases of exceptional interest occur in the hospital, the students and pupil midwives do not come in contact in their work.

The divorce of midwifery from the indoor work of the general hospitals has never been ideal, although necessitated by regard for the interests of the patients in the days when asepsis was only imperfectly understood and practised. The teaching of Lord Lister, which has revolutionized surgery, has also had a potent influence on midwifery, and it is really a practical tribute to his genius that one after another the general hospitals can with safety open their doors again for the reception of women in childbirth.

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