

NURSING ECHOES.

The examination of nurses instituted by the Metropolitan Asylums Board is, we understand, proving satisfactory now that it is in working order. It is conducted by Dr. H. E. Cuff, Medical Officer to the Board for General Purposes, in conjunction with the Medical Superintendents, and with one of the Board's Matrons appointed for a certain period. Miss Bann, Matron of the Brook Hospital, Shooter's Hill, has been acting in this capacity, and the next on the rota will probably be Miss A. A. Browne, Matron of the Grove Hospital, Tooting, as they come on in alphabetical order.

Two accidents, one ending fatally, which have occurred at the General Hospital, Wolverhampton, emphasise the fact that children should be always kept under observation. A child of two, admitted for injuries received in a swing accident, died, as was proved at the subsequent inquest, from strychnine poisoning. A ward maid gave evidence that she heard a crash, and running into the ward saw the child standing up in her cot with a stopper in one hand and a bottle in the other. The nurse in charge stated that the strychnine in question was kept on a tray on the ward table for emergencies and hypodermic injections. The child's cot was moved in the course of dusting and sweeping, but she had not noticed it. The strychnine had always been kept in the same place, and the practice was to keep it there before she took charge of the ward. The jury, who returned a verdict of accidental death, considered that the nurse should be censured. The Coroner, addressing her, said that he did not think she had done anything particularly bad. She had been carrying on a bad practice started by her predecessors.

On Saturday last a seven-year-old boy at the same hospital got out of bed during the nurse's absence, and climbed on to a window. After scaling three bars, six feet from the ground, he jumped or fell a distance of 15 feet, and was picked up with a fractured leg.

A curious correspondence has been taking place between Mr. A. J. Bidgway, Secretary of the Plymouth, Devonport, Stonehouse and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Protection Society, and the Secretary of the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital. At the half-yearly meeting of the above Society a member (Mr. Gray) reported that the application of his

daughter to be trained as a nurse at the hospital was refused "solely on the ground of her father being a licensed victualler, and that it would be derogatory to her uniform to visit her father's house in it." Her eligibility was, he said, proved by the fact of her subsequent admission to a first-class London hospital for training. A resolution protesting against this exclusion was passed and sent to the hospital, when the Secretary replied that he was "instructed to say that Miss Gray was not declined because she was the daughter of a licensed victualler, but solely because it was understood the only entry to her home was through the public bar."

The Society has refused to accept the explanation as satisfactory, and has notified the hospital authorities that it "considers the action and opinion of the executive of the said hospital a direct insult to the entire licensed trade."

Evidence of the difficulty of obtaining nurses is forthcoming on all sides, one result being the welcome one of an increase of salaries, for, compared with their responsibilities, the salaries of ward sisters and other fully trained nurses in institutions are as a rule very inadequate. At the monthly meeting of the Governors of the Macclesfield Infirmary, Alderman Frost, J.P., Chairman of the House Committee, said he was glad to inform the Governors that at last they had two fresh Sisters in the place of those who had resigned. They had not yet got a nurse for the operating theatre; there was evidently a very great dearth of suitable people, but he thought the Matron had someone in view, even for that office.

At the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital the salary of the Assistant Matron is to be increased to £50. The Sisters will still begin with £30, but their salaries will rise by an annual increase of £2 10s. to £40. The Chairman stated that they were fortunate in having excellent Sisters at the hospital, but they found that, in the cases of other hospitals, financial inducements were given to Sisters to stay for three years. They were anxious to avoid as many changes as they had experienced in the last year or two.

At the Northampton Poor Law Infirmary the Staff is to be increased, and the salaries also, and the Lincoln Guardians recently decided to increase the salaries offered both to Charge Nurses and probationers in advertising vacancies.

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