

an increase of twelve over last year, and had paid 3,219 visits. Of the cases, 41 were surgical, 75 medical, and 91 maternity. Of the cases attended, 167 recovered, three were taken over by private nurses, three went to hospital, one to the asylum, two left Comber, eighteen died, and thirteen were still on the Society's books. Nurse Finlay was much and deservedly loved by the people of Comber.

An epidemic of plague and cerebro-spinal meningitis which has recently broken out in East Africa now extends from the coast to Victoria Nyanza; Mombasa, Nairobi, and Kisumu are affected. The total number of cases is 452; the deaths are 328. We fear the supply of nurses is very limited.

The inaccurate statement having been made in a lay nursing paper that a nursing service for the first time has been established on the Imperator, Mr. Clement W. Jones a Director of the Booth Steamship Co. writes to the *Liverpool Mercury* to state that his company was the first to establish a nursing department on board ship, ten years ago. All the Booth Line Royal mail steamers carry a qualified nurse.

This question was first agitated and brought before the public by the Matron's Council—and the adoption of its suggestion made in Conference, is one of the many benefits which have resulted from the co-operation of public-spirited hospital matrons.

The Rev. J. Wood of Levenshulme, writes to the local press on the overstrain of nurses in Manchester hospitals; he asks if nothing can be done to ease the burden. Patients admitted to them with whom he comes in contact speak in the highest terms of the thoughtfulness, kindness, attention and devotion to duty of the nurses, but they finish by saying "but they have too much to do, especially on day duty."

Time was when patients were not supposed to form or express opinions upon hospital surroundings provided by charity. With education all that is changed, and it would surprise many hospital authorities to read (as we have lately done) letters from patients to their families at home.

Lying all day in bed, with little to occupy them, every detail is noticed, and what they don't observe is of little account. One complaint is very general. The objection to the dead being screened off and left in general wards all night. Every new hospital should have small side wards into which those patients who are dangerously ill should be moved—so that

the shock of death should be spared to others weak from illness.

To cover up a corpse at 9 p.m. and leave it there till 7 a.m. on the following morning, is indeed cruel to patients occupying beds on either side—the majority of whom are too perturbed to sleep.

The ladies' branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is enthusiastically furthering the interests of Roman Catholic nurses. At a recent meeting at Homerton, Miss Rouse forcibly pointed out the great comfort and consolation it was to Catholic patients, to be attended by one of their own faith.

Miss Katharine de Witt, U.S.A. has brought out a book on "Private Duty Nursing" which will be widely appreciated, as she treats the subject from very high ethical standards.

Occupations that have to do with human beings, she writes, rather than with things, require a keen interest in human nature as an essential equipment for the worker, and if a woman does not like her fellow men and women, she had better not try to take care of them. A nurse's work isolates her for such long periods of time from the world in general that she must find her interest in her work and in the people she serves if she is to be happy or to carry happiness with her. Let the nurse who undertakes private duty consider each new case as presenting a problem to be solved—the problem of adapting herself to new personalities and fresh environment, and of making herself the most useful and helpful nurse who could be found in that situation. The problem will have to be solved in a different way each time. It is like a game of chess—one can learn the rules of the game from another and can be taught how to make certain moves, or how to avoid certain complications that may arise, but, after all, the player must manage the game in his own way and win or lose by his own ability. No two games are alike. . . .

To one who loves people and believes in them, there is unfailing interest in the human game with its constant changes and adjustments.

The nurse must cultivate this interest and not allow herself to grow indifferent, for even the dullest person may be a study in that line, while the surprises that lie beneath the surface keep up one's hope of finding more good qualities than at first appear in some people. . . .

The personal service rendered by the nurse at the time of weakness and need may become the sweetest of human opportunities. No work is more appreciated when it is done in the highest spirit, and the worker often finds herself so overwhelmed with gratitude for her small effort that she is touched and humbled and resolves afresh that she will try to better deserve the confidence that has been given her.

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