

NURSING AND THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

An interesting discussion as to promotion under the Metropolitan Asylums Board took place at the meeting on November 15th. The Children's Committee recommended the appointment of Miss Jane Ainslie, who has been for the last two years Matron of the Children's Hospital, Sunderland, to be Matron of the Park Hospital for Children. Several members urged that the Assistant Matron at the Park Hospital should be promoted to the position.

Sir John MacDougall said that a memorial had been presented by the nurses in the Board's service pointing out that if a Matron was to be appointed from outside every time that a vacancy occurred there was no opportunity for the staff to advance. Sir John said the Committee's proposal was very ungenerous to the Assistant Matron, who had been acting as Matron for thirty or forty weeks.

Mr. Elliott said that the lady recommended for the position was head and shoulders above the other candidates. The Assistant Matron was not second, but third on the list. The Board ought not to put a ring fence round its principal officials; if promotion was automatic members of the Board might as well relinquish their duties.

Professor W. R. Smith supported the recommendation of the Committee. The children's work had been added to the Board's duties in recent years; it should undergo very great development, and this would not be possible unless the Board placed in control the very best people it could find.

Father Higley said there was a section of the Board which was always ready to cast slurs on its own officers.

Mrs. Reidy said there was a strong feeling amongst the nursing staff that promotion should be possible. The dissatisfaction with the conditions of service was reflected in the difficulty experienced in obtaining nurses. Surely a lady who had been in the service of the Board for fourteen years, who had been an Assistant Matron, who had been in charge of the institution for many weeks and had nothing against her in the records was capable of filling the position of Matron? The Board was doing a great injustice to those in its employ; if this unfair treatment continued the difficulty in obtaining nurses was likely to increase.

The Rev. Bell Doughty, Chairman of the Committee, said the merits of the lady now recommended were weighed against those of thirty-nine other candidates for a very responsible post. Automatic promotion would be detrimental to the service; the staff would feel that there was no need for further effort.

The recommendation to appoint Miss Ainslie was carried by thirty-seven votes to fourteen.

It was reported at the same meeting that, owing solely to inability to procure "an adequate

nursing staff of the lower grades," it had not been possible to admit immediately every case of scarlet fever recently notified, although there were beds ready for patients. The Hospitals Committee stated that medical officers of health had been asked to furnish daily lists of the most urgent cases, and the immediate difficulty as regards nurses had been met to some extent by the engagement of a large number of institution nurses. The principal Medical Officer had been asked to report at an early date on the existing terms and conditions of employment of the nursing staff at the Board's infectious hospitals, including hours of duty, amount of leave, &c., embodying any views he might have as to what variations were necessary to render the service more attractive.

APPOINTMENTS.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

County Hospital, York.—Miss Kathleen S. Stewart has been appointed Lady Superintendent. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, and at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, and has held the positions of District and Ward Sister at the Deaconess Hospital in the same city, Holiday Sister at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, Night Superintendent and Housekeeping Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, Housekeeping Sister at Charing Cross Hospital, London, and Assistant Matron at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh. She is a Certified Midwife.

MATRON.

Park Hospital, Hither Green, Lewisham.—Miss Jane Ainslie has been appointed Matron of the Park Hospital under the Metropolitan Asylums Board. She was trained for three years at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, and for four years at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. She has also held the positions of Assistant Matron at the Leigh Hospital, and at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and Matron at the Children's Hospital, Sunderland.

Royal Hamadryad Seaman's Hospital, Cardiff.—Miss Ellen M. Watts has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the General Hospital, Northampton; and was Sister and Assistant Matron there for five years; from 1912, she has been Assistant Matron at the County Hospital, Bedford.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Dykebar Asylum, Paisley.—Miss Margaret C. Robertson has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Victoria Hospital, Glasgow, and has been Charge Nurse at Ochil Hills Sanatorium, Sister in Charge, Rostrevor Sanatorium, Warrenpoint, and Housekeeping Sister in the Students' Residence, Glasgow Maternity Hospital. She has also had experience of private nursing.

SISTER.

Southern Convalescent Hospital, Dartford, Kent.—Miss Edith Dorcas Ryan has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Kingdon

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