

NURSES' INSURANCE SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

The first annual statutory meeting of the Nurses' Insurance Society of Ireland was held in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, on 27th November. Miss MacArdle, President of the Society presided. The Secretary read the report which was considered satisfactory, and it was adopted. Referring to the question of certification now in dispute between the Medical Profession and the Insurance Commission, it was stated that the Committee decided not to countenance any arrangement by the Commission on the question of Doctors' fees, unless it had the full sanction of the whole Medical Profession and accordingly had not accepted the Medical Adviser allotted to the Society by the Commission. The Committee of Management were elected for the ensuing year. As the Treasurership for the Society is now to be vested in a Bank (yet to be chosen), the following was added to Rule 24: "That if a bank has agreed to act as Treasurer for a Society, Rule 24 shall not be enforced." A vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Roberts for having acted as Treasurer *pro tem*, and her generosity in presenting a fireproof iron safe to the Society, and also to Miss K. Kearns for her devotion, courtesy, and attention to her duties as Secretary. A vote of thanks was passed to the three Trustees.

After the business meeting a discussion took place on interesting subjects to Nurses, when the following resolutions were passed—

(1) That all Hospitals and Institutions sending Nurses out to private cases, should make a uniform charge to cover the cost of the employer's contribution under the Insurance Act, 1911

(2) That there should be a Midwives Act for Ireland, and a Central Midwives Board established in Dublin.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Miss McArdle for having presided at both Meetings.

NURSING THE INSURED, SCOTLAND.

A Conference of representatives of Lanarkshire local nursing associations on the utilisation of the services of district nurses in connection with public health administration, visitation under the National Insurance Act, and the treatment of school children, was held at Glasgow on Friday, November 28th. Lord Newlands, who was in the chair, explained that they simply desired to ascertain what was best to be done in order to prevent overlapping. It had been suggested that the proposal to utilize the services of nurses for such work might interfere with the work for which the Queen's nurses were specially designed, but they must face the fact that the State had stepped in, and unless voluntary agencies adjusted themselves to altered circumstances they might find the scope of their work seriously curtailed. After a long discussion in which Lady Susan Gilmour, Mr Thomas Munro and others took part, a Joint Committee was appointed to report to another meeting early in the new year.

LEGAL MATTERS.

In the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on Tuesday in last week, before Lord Cullen, Miss Agnes Dunlop Baird, of Stewarton, Ayrshire, represented by the Solicitor General, K.C., claimed £600 damages against the Banff District Lunacy Board. Miss Baird, in September, 1910, was appointed Matron of the Banff District Asylum, at a salary of £50, and emoluments consisting of furnished apartments, and board. She complains that no furnished apartments were provided for her and that she was forced to accept the hospitality of the Superintendent, sharing his house, board and attendance. Besides the lack of privacy and inconvenience entailed, reflections were made on the propriety of her prolonged residence with the Superintendent, and the delicate position became intolerable. The defenders urge that a bedroom was set apart for the pursuer and that she had the use of a sitting room with the Superintendent and his wife.

PRESENTATION.

Testimony to the affection in which Miss Ethel Grant, who has recently resigned the position of Superintendent of the Florence Saunders Nursing Association, Peterborough, after having been connected with the Association for eighteen years, is held, was recently given to her by many friends, who presented her with a cheque for £50 and a book containing the names of the subscribers. The presentation was made by Canon Ball, and Miss Grant warmly acknowledged the gift.

THE DANGER OF FLANNELETTE.

The sad death of Miss D. I. Dobson, a nurse at the Grove Fever Hospital, Tooting, owing to her lamb's wool dressing gown, and flannelette night-dress becoming ignited, draws attention once more to the danger of wearing underclothing of this inflammable material.

Dr. Beggs, Medical Superintendent, told the Coroner, Mr. S. Ingleby Oddie, at the subsequent inquest, that the nurses wore flannelette because it was cheap and warm. If they were forbidden to wear it the authorities would not get any nursing staff. They could not give such instructions. The Coroner thought it the duty of a great institution (employing 130 nurses) to set an example to the public, and in summing up said, flannelette was an extremely dangerous substance to be worn by nurses. He suggested that it might be possible for the officials of the Metropolitan Asylums Board to make regulations prohibiting its use by their nursing staff.

We recommend nurses to adopt Dr. Lahmann's Cottonwool Underwear. It is noted for warmth and comfort, its hard wearing qualities, does not shrink, is reasonable in price and has not the inflammable characteristics of flannelette. The Lahmann Agency is at 245, High Holborn, W.C.

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