

services of these nurses to be at the disposal of the County Insurance Committee for cases of tuberculosis receiving domiciliary and after care treatment; the approved societies to contribute for the services rendered by the nurses a capitation grant in proportion to the number of nurses employed, the amount of the capitation grant to be subject to periodical revision.

MISSIONARY NURSING.

We are glad to learn that the Sale of Work in aid of the Missionary Nurses' League has brought in the satisfactory sum of £45 3s. White tablecloths, tea cloths, and d'oyleys sold specially well. This is a hint for skilled fingers in preparing their contributions for the Sale next November.

Sisters in hospital are reminded in *Nurses Near and Far* that the week-end Conference will be held at the Mission House, Newington Green, from February 28th to March 2nd, so that if they are unable to attend they can send someone in their place. The Committee hope to receive as guests any who can stay in London the two nights, and Miss Richardson would be glad to know as early as possible the names of those who hope to be present.

POOR LAW NURSING.

At a recent meeting of the Linton Board of Guardians, the Chairman read a report on the Union Nursing Staff, drawn up by Miss L. W. Wamsley, a Government Inspector, which was received on October 10th, 1913. The report stated that there was one day and one night nurse, both untrained. The sick wards were clean, but there was very little provision for keeping the personal belongings of the inmates, as there were no lockers. The babies were left in the charge of a deaf inmate. It was not a satisfactory plan that the inmate be left constantly alone in the nursery. This was an institution where the Matron was also a charge nurse. The laundry arrangements were out-of-date, for all the hot water had to be carried across an open yard. The babies slept at night in the women's ward. There were 34 patients in the sick ward. There was no one on the nursing staff who was trained, and the report strongly urged the appointment of a trained nurse. It called attention to the fact that the Assistant Matron was employed too much in the laundry, and therefore not able to assist in the nursing.

A copy of the report had been submitted to the Medical Officer, Dr. Palmer, who wrote making a few comments upon it. He said that the recommendation as to the appointment of

trained nurses he could not endorse. It was merely a counsel of perfection. Trained nurses were an excellent institution in their proper place, but they were neither all-wise nor infallible. If they got trained nurses they would only stay a few months, and constant changes would not be good for the patients or for the administration. Twelve months ago they had trained nurses appointed, but they did not stay long. After 13 years' experience of Linton Infirmary, he could not recommend the abolition of the present nursing staff to try and get a trained nurse and an assistant.

It was resolved that the copies of the report and the doctor's comments, together with the Board's criticism, be sent to the Local Government Board.

Presumably this pre-historic condition of affairs is what Miss Gibson anticipates if the new L.G.B. Nursing Order comes into force in February.

FROM OVER SEAS.

From *The American Journal of Nursing* we learn that "each year it is becoming harder to procure competent graduate nurses for our hospitals, both large and small." As the pay is very good, the Editor wants to get at the reason, from the graduate's point of view, for her unwillingness to remain in the hospitals' service. "Is it discipline, or poor food, or long hours, or responsibility, or lack of appreciation? There must be a reason for it. Or is it simply the economic one of supply and demand, that with the tremendous increase in the number of hospitals, and of positions, there are not enough really competent women with executive ability to fill these positions? This is an interesting question, because it seems to be parallel in a way to that of the scarcity of probationers to fill the ranks in the schools."

So the shortage of nurses is not only on this side.

The State of Kentucky, which has not yet secured a Nurses' Registration Law, is taking steps towards that end. The Bill will be presented to the General Assembly this winter.

The Isabel Hampton Robb Fund has now reached 13,795 dollars, about £2,700, and it is constantly growing, as it possesses many sustaining members (subscribers). Three scholarships are already endowed in her name, two by the American Nurses' Association in connection with the Department of Nursing and Health, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. These educational advantages for trained nurses are just the memorial Mrs. Robb would of all things have preferred.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)