

world, who was constantly present to direct the work of the male and female nurses, and maintain discipline between the nursing staff and the patients.

#### MODERN REQUIREMENTS OF MENTAL NURSING.

Miss MacBean, Matron of the Hawkhead Asylum, Paisley, briefly outlined some of the more important requirements in mental nursing, more especially as it affects the institutional care of the insane. Referring to the great advance in the nursing of the insane, she said that this was the logical and necessary outcome of earnest and scientific enquiry on the part of the asylum psychologists, who had made it clear that mental disorder, in most cases, was the outcome of bodily disease, and that improvement of the mental state must go hand in hand with the treatment of physical disease.

Discussing the question of the nursing of insane men by women, the speaker expressed the opinion that to put young women in charge of insane men, who had little control over their actions, was exposing them to the danger of losing their modesty, and doing violence to their finer feelings.

The nursing might be and often was better done, the doctor's orders were more accurately carried out, better discipline might be maintained by the appeal which the presence of a woman made to the latent chivalry in the patient; but in spite of all these advantages, there was something lost to the nurse which could never be regained, and nowoman should ever be called upon, unnecessarily, to make such a sacrifice. Although many might consent to undertake it, that did not make the responsibility of those who asked them to nurse insane men any the less.

Miss Smith, Matron of the Paisley Poor House Hospital and Asylum, enquired whether anything was being done to lessen the hours of women in asylums. She was informed that at Morningside these were seventy per week.

The Chairman said that nothing could make an evening more interesting than to hear two diametrically opposed opinions such as those expressed by the last speakers. She said further that the great thing the lay person noticed about the nurse was that she never lost her human sympathy. It was a great tribute both to their education and to nurses themselves that they remained so extremely human.

Cordial votes of thanks to the Chair and the speakers were moved by Miss A. Wise, Craig House, Morningside, Edinburgh; and Miss Chalmers, the Eye Infirmary, Glasgow.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mrs. William George Black, who presided at the Afternoon Session on Wednesday, February 11th, in her opening remarks, said that the subjects to be dealt with were of increasing importance to those

who devoted their lives to the sick. The Conference was of service to both nurses and patients and was helpful in affording the opportunity of comparing notes on many subjects.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF OPHTHALMIC TRAINING FOR NURSES.

The first paper presented was that by Dr. Ernest Thomson, Surgeon to the Glasgow Eye Infirmary, on "The Importance of Ophthalmic Training for Nurses." We print this paper on page 151.

#### THRIFT FOR NURSES.

The paper on "Thrift for Nurses," contributed by Mr. Louis H. M. Dick, Secretary of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, was, in his absence, read by Miss Brown, a Sister at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. The writer said that he addressed himself to the working nurse, with only herself and her profession to fall back upon, who seriously intended trying to do the best for herself and to establish a more or less independent position. He pointed out that the working life of a nurse began much later in life than that of the ordinary working woman. She was 27 or 28 before she began to work on her own account, and at 45 regular employment began to fail. On the other hand, a nurse's life was longer than that of the average woman; she lived longer even than the Government annuitant. There was, therefore, a longer period to bridge over between inability to obtain work and death—years of everything going out and nothing coming in. The Insurance Act did not help a nurse at all in this respect.

#### HINTS ON BUSINESS.

Miss C. J. Wood, whose paper, in her absence, was read by Miss Alice Middleton, Secretary of the Colonial Nursing Association, said that the work of nursing was so absorbing, and the demand made on the mental equipment at times so severe, that nurses often abandoned the care of concerns vital to all wage-earning women into the hands of some one or other. This person might deal fairly and squarely, or otherwise seek to make capital out of the nurse's ignorance, or should she say laziness? The essentials of the good woman of business were those of the good nurse; consequently the nurse had only to adjust her point view, to grapple with business with as much success as she grappled with her patient.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, Mrs. Black said that she had heard unbusinesslike people described as those who were a nuisance to others.

The Session concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Miss Melrose.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Miss Gill, Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, presided at the last Session of the Conference, and congratulated Glasgow upon its success. She said that the papers to be

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