

The Annual Meeting of the After Care Association for Poor Persons discharged Recovered from Asylums for the Insane, was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Sir Thomas Barlow presiding. He said he did not consider that the condition of insane people was fairly visualised by the average person. The idea was generally to get them out of sight, and people did not consider what was to happen to these poor patients when they left the asylum.

Other speakers were Sir George Savage, who emphasised the point that to be sane was not always to be sound, and it was mental soundness that it was the work of the Society to bring about; and Mr. A. H. Trevor, Commissioner in Lunacy.

Owing to the overflow of the river Mole, the staff of the Isolation Hospital for East and West Molesey have been working under difficulties. The hospital blocks have been surrounded with water, and the Matron, in going her rounds, was wheeled on a trolley; the nurses on day and night duty wore sea boots to wade from block to block; and the doctor, discarding his motor car, finished his journey in a farm cart. We guess the situation was not devoid of fun.

Most nurses are devoted to dancing, and none more so than those across the border, where dancing is a universal form of recreation. The Lord Provost and Corporation of Glasgow could not, therefore, provide a more welcome form of entertainment for the nurses of the City than the concert and dance to which 500 nurses have been invited on the evening of the 24th of March, and the same number on the 25th, at the City Chambers. The nurses throughout the city have been looking forward for months to this municipal hospitality.

POOR LAW NURSING.

We are sincerely glad that the Managers of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum defeated Councillor Sumners' motion at a recent meeting:—"That a record of applications from members of the resident female staff for special late leave, or leave to sleep away from the institution, be kept and submitted to the Visiting Committee at each meeting; further, that where such leave is refused on account of an officer having arrived late on duty, the amount of time late be shown"—and passed a vote of confidence in their able and conscientious Matron. All sorts of silly accusations were made, which were not substantiated by the one nurse interviewed, and we are not surprised that the Matron informed the Committee that though strict she was just, and that if they

wanted a high tone and a high standard in the hospital strict discipline must be maintained. We feel sure the nurses on the staff of any real value to the institution will support this contention.

We heard a Poor Law Matron remark the other day: "I am worn out with attempting to do my duty against the constant undermining of authority by those who should support it; it is a thankless task."

In the report of an inquest on an old woman who died in Hackney Infirmary, Dr. Brander, the medical superintendent, was erroneously reported as saying: "There is no hospital or infirmary in the country where there are fully trained nurses in charge at night."

Dr. Brander writes that he said: "There is no hospital . . . where there are only fully trained nurses on night duty."

This one word "only" makes all the difference. But from evidence before us more experienced nurses on night duty are required in the vast majority of Poor Law Infirmarys; the number of nurses might also be increased with advantage to the sick and helpless poor.

FROM OVER SEAS.

We hear from Baltimore, U.S.A., that Miss Grace Baxter, R.N., who, with Miss Amy Turton and a few others, was a pioneer of the Nursing Cause in Italy, has definitely given up her work in the Gesù e Maria Hospital, Naples, and is travelling in the United States. "The ground broken by us pioneers," she says, "who worked under difficult and often impossible conditions, is now bringing forth its harvest under the able hand of Miss Dorothy Snell, Matron of Queen Elena's School for Nurses in the Policlinico Hospital, Rome, who has placed the nursing profession in Italy upon an ethical and thoroughly progressive basis. I hear that the first branch school of the S.C.R.E. has just been opened in Florence. My hearty good wishes to Miss Snell and her co-workers for the future of the nursing cause in Italy, which, I hope, is at last assured."

The *Companion*, a New England journal, announces that in the Massachusetts State House, near the entrance to the beautiful Hall of Flags, stands an impressive memorial to the nurses of the Civil War, the patriotic women who left the comforts and safety of home to face the hardships of war in ministering to the sick and wounded. It was unveiled February 12th—the first monument of its kind in the country. The heroic bronze group, which rests on a marble pedestal, consists

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