

THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES AND SUFFERING OF THE POOR.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board is not the only sufferer from a shortage of nurses. The country workhouse infirmaries are also in urgent need of nurses. The Newport Board of Guardians report having spent £71 10s. 2d. in advertising for nurses during the last two and a half years.

The Ecclesall Board report experiencing great trouble in securing good nurses.

The supply of suitable young women for training is quite insufficient. The Clerk pointed out at a recent meeting that according to a return he had received respecting nursing in the Unions of the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire, in the Ecclesall Bierlow Union the average number of patients to each day nurse was 13, and to each night nurse 35, while the average to each nurse employed throughout the institution was 9. The average in respect of the whole of the West Riding was 13 patients to each day nurse, 34 to each night nurse, and 10 to each nurse employed throughout the several Unions.

At the meeting of the Keynsham District Council the medical officer said that at present there was a dearth of nurses throughout the country. Owing to the failure to get a nurse, certain patients from Brislington were not admitted to the isolation hospital. He thought the shortage likely to continue. They had the same difficulty at Ham Green. The time had come when the whole question of hospital provision ought to be reviewed.

At Fylde Workhouse Infirmary the vacancy for a ward sister had been advertised for weeks, with no satisfactory result.

Reports of similar difficulties reach us from many workhouse infirmaries, proving the widespread nature of the shortage.

The Medical Press and Circular states that the plain fact of the matter is that the nurse is too often exploited in the cause of medical charity. . . . and then proceeds to call upon the nursing papers . . . "instead of seeking to register nurses to draw up a practical curriculum defining and limiting their field of education, both in theory and the art of their vocation." As this is the only journal for nurses which advocates efficient education, State registration and just economic conditions for trained nurses, we would point out that the system of limiting the intellectual development of the trained nurse is now in full force, and it is just that denial of a defined curriculum of education, and of legal status when trained, which has brought nursing in this country to the verge of extinction—so far as a sufficient supply of intelligent women is concerned. Man was not made to live by bread alone, neither was woman, and if you starve the craving for accurate knowledge in nurses in these days the right sort of woman will make a flank movement and depart in peace from the monotonous cabbage patch.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Preston and County of Lancaster Queen Victoria Royal Infirmary, Preston.—Miss Annie Charlesworth has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Huddersfield, gaining a bronze medal for efficiency, and being subsequently appointed Night Superintendent. She has also been Night Sister, and Ward and Theatre Sister at the General Hospital, Great Yarmouth.

SISTER.

Isleworth Isolation Hospital, Surbiton.—Miss T. M. Seddon has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and Ormskirk Joint Isolation Hospital, and has been temporary Sister at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and on the private staff of the Sefton Park Nursing Home, Liverpool.

Eye Hospital, Birmingham.—Miss E. M. Warneford has been appointed Sister of the Children's Ward. She was trained at the Warneford Hospital, Leamington, and was on the private staff of the hospital for a year. She was later appointed sister of the children's ward.

LADY MINTO'S INDIAN NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The following appointments as Sister have been made in Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association:—

Miss Jessie Agnes Robinson trained at the London Temperance Hospital, and in midwifery at Queen Charlotte's Hospital. She has had experience in private nursing and is a certified midwife.

Miss Lucy Sutton Dawbarn trained at the Royal Hospital, Bootle, where she has held the positions of Sister and Night Superintendent. She received midwifery training at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and has been Sister at the Maternity Hospital, Liverpool, has had experience in private nursing and is a certified midwife.

Miss Mary Priscilla Cooper, trained at the Fulham Infirmary. She has held the position of Sister at the Fulham Infirmary, and has worked as Sister in connection with the Colonial Nursing Association under the Madrid Nursing Association. She is a certified midwife.

Miss Annie Davies, trained at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum. She has held the position of Charge Nurse at the Horton Hospital, South Shields, and received midwifery training at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, where she was afterwards Ward Sister. She has also been Assistant Matron at the Leicester Maternity Hospital, and is a certified midwife.

Miss Susan Beatrice Lanyon, trained at the London Homœopathic Hospital, and in midwifery at the British Lying-In Hospital, Endell Street, W.C. She has had experience of private nursing, and worked as a member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, seeing active service in the South African campaign.

The Sisters sailed for India on April 1st.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)