

one receives from the Matron, Miss Bodley, whose portrait appears on this page.

In size the Infirmary is ideal, 500 beds, or, to be exact, 499, are quite sufficient to afford a varied training, and not too many for the Matron to keep in intimate touch with all the departments. The Infirmary is also a training school in midwifery recognized by the Central Midwives Board, so that a proportion of the nurses have the advantage of midwifery training, a very substantial advantage, as those who apply for appointments abroad speedily discover. About half the cases are taken in the Maternity ward of the Infirmary, and the other half under the supervision of not more than two midwives practising within the area of the Union, with whom the probationer must make her own arrangements and must pay the incidental expenses.

A further period of nine months must be served at the expiration of this training, during which the nurse is paid a salary at the rate of £25 per annum.

The probationers also receive instruction in sick room cookery during their training.

It is interesting to know that there is a resident blind masseuse. As a means of self-support for a class of the community handicapped in the struggle of life, massage affords an attractive opening, and the sensitive hands and finger-tips of the blind person are specially suited to this work, but institution life is obviously more suitable for a blind masseuse than visiting daily cases, and hospital committees, and Boards of Guardians, might well bear the claims of the blind in mind in making these appointments, if the post is not a teaching one.

The wards of the Selly Oak Infirmary are of admirable proportions, as the accompanying picture demonstrates. They are also very bright and airy. Plants and flowers add to their attractiveness, and a dominant note here, as elsewhere, was the wealth of tulips, which

this year seem specially fine and plentiful, and the effective colouring afforded by sweet-scented bluebells.

The floors of the wards are in some instances tessellated, in others polished boards. The annexes at the entrance include spacious ward kitchens, a supply room for patients' clothes, for every article worn is supplied by the Guardians; there is also a shelf for the accommodation of the patient's own clothes when disinfected. There is further a small ward outside the main one where doubtful, noisy, or specially serious cases can be nursed.

Probationers are received for training for three years and three months, the first three months being a period of probation.

Like most institutions, Selly Oak Infirmary is feeling the inconvenience of the present shortage of candidates. Until recently, Miss Bodley states, she had little or no difficulty in filling vacancies; but, during the last six months, the difficulty has been acute. We agree that it will remain so until the State gives its recognition to the work of trained nurses, and through a system of State Registration differentiates the nurse who is adequately trained and tested, from those whose knowledge is an unknown quantity.

M. B.



MISS AMY M. E. BODLEY,
MATRON, SELLY OAK INFIRMARY.

During a visit to St. Leonards-on-Sea, Miss Annie Hulme, Honorary Secretary of the Matrons' Council, spoke, by invitation, before the local suffrage society, on the question of State Registration. She gave an admirable address, and aroused keen interest in the question; incidentally she caused much amusement by her graphic description of interviews with members of Parliament at the House "pledged" to vote against the Bill! By the bye, "educating" members at the House is work which brings surprisingly good results. We wish more registrationists would try it.

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