

in charge of a lady dispenser. The kitchen and store rooms are on the top floor of the building.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught were received by the President, the Earl of Verulam, and Sir James Harrison, C.V.O., Chairman of the Board of Management. After the opening ceremony, when the Secretary, Mr. Robert G. E. Whitney, read an address, and the Prince made a most cordial and appropriate reply, the Earl of Verulam gave some details of the hospital's work, followed by Dr. Frederick Taylor and Professor A. D. Waller, M.D. The Mayor of Marylebone then welcomed the Hospital into the borough in an eloquent and whimsical speech. A number of presentations were made—including the Matron, who was honoured with a specially cordial smile from both the Prince and Princess—and purses presented, after which their Royal Highnesses were shown the Electro-Cardiograph (in which they took great interest) and other instruments. The Electro-Cardiograph "reads" a heart by the character of the chart traced, as the result of the electric currents generated by the heart's beat. Tea was served in a private room for the Royal Party, and the visitors were hospitably entertained in the top ward. On leaving the Hospital the Prince was presented with the Cardiogram he had taken, by means of a simple string oscillating in magnetic fluid. As a result of the recent discoveries in connection with this instrument, improved facilities for the treatment of heart complaints are made possible.

The contents of the purses amounted to £191.

A contingent of Boy Scouts formed a Guard of Honour.

"CHRISTIAN NURSES."

We note that the lady on Macmillan's pseudo-nursing paper, who is also "national travelling and organizing secretary" to a Nurses' Union, in addressing a meeting of nurses at the Royal Hospital, Sheffield, last week, is reported to have urged the formation of a Sheffield Branch of the Union, "as there is no competent body representing the nursing profession to which it might appeal for advice and help." It would be interesting to know to whom the profession is to appeal in this instance!

The truth is that responsible Matrons and trained nurses should carefully inquire into the *raison d'être* of those who attempt to organize our profession and instruct us through the lay-edited nursing press. Of recent years certain methods of pushing the circulation of such publications have become a disintegrating influence, calculated to impede professional solidarity.

The Nurses' Union, "on Christian lines," must not be confused with the National Union of Trained Nurses.

METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

MEANS OF DEALING WITH THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES.

As reported recently in these columns (December 6th, 1913, p. 472) the Metropolitan Asylums Board has called for a report by the principal medical officer as to the possibility of the notification of measles and whooping cough being effective as a means of dealing with "the frequently recurring condition of shortage of nurses."

In presenting his report on January 10th, Dr. H. E. Cuff suggested that the words quoted were misleading as, except for the Mile End outbreak of small pox, the Board did not engage institution nurses during 1911 and 1912. The resolution passed by the Board recommended that a full staff of nurses should be maintained as a general policy. Dr. Cuff believed this to be the policy of the Board, the only obstacle to its fulfilment at the present time being the impossibility of obtaining sufficient nurses. It was suggested in the resolution that measles and whooping cough should be made notifiable in order that work might be provided for the full staff of nurses where scarlet fever and diphtheria were not epidemic. Such a step was not to be recommended in view of the fact that the notification of measles had been proved to have no value as a preventive measure, whilst notification would result in a large expenditure. As German measles were very commonly mistaken for measles proper, when the latter disease was epidemic the number of notifications would be enormous, and the Board's resources would be found quite inadequate. The experiment proposed was tried in Stepney during the latter part of 1911, and in six months 1,869 cases of measles were notified in Stepney, whilst only 673 patients suffering from the diseases were admitted from the whole of London into the Board's hospitals. In Aberdeen compulsory notification of measles had been abandoned after being in force for twenty years.

The Hospitals Committee concurred generally in this report, and mentioned that the full report as to means for dealing with the shortage of nurses was not yet ready.

RELAXATION OF HOSPITAL RULES.

The Board opposed a recommendation that sanction be given to the use until 11 p.m. of artificial light in the bedrooms of Sisters in the infectious hospitals service. The Hospitals Committee considered that the status of Sisters merited some extension of privilege, and that, in view of the present shortage, this relaxation of a restriction was expedient. The suggestion had the unanimous support of the Medical Superintendents and the Matrons.

FEVER TRAINING FOR PROBATIONERS.

In order to give probationers trained in the children's hospitals a period of fever training

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