

side. He further explained that there was not a sufficient nursing staff. On this night there were two nurses for six or seven wards and 100 or 120 patients. There was very great difficulty in obtaining nurses, and the staff had been inadequate over a year. The only certificated nurse was the Superintendent, and inmates were not permitted to attend to the sick.

The Superintendent Nurse and the nurse attending the deceased gave evidence, and it appeared the woman was left for a few seconds while some stimulant was fetched from the adjoining room. While this was taking place the patient fell out of bed with her head on the heating apparatus.

Dr. Allen did not think the fall had accelerated death, which was due to valvular disease of the heart, and the verdict was accordingly.

No blame was attached to the nursing staff, but the jury added that there was reason to complain of the Guardians not providing more nurses.

We are pleased to note that for once the matter was not "blamed on to Eve." No wonder conscientious women hesitate to take service under the Poor Law.

We hope the President of the Local Government Board will take action in the matter. It is nothing short of scandalous that under a Government Department it should be possible to expect two nurses to look after 120 sick people scattered in six or seven wards, and it is heartrending to realise the suffering of these poor broken human beings they attempt to nurse.

MASSAGE.

Dr. Herbert Vachell stated at a recent meeting that the massage department of the King Edward VII Hospital, Cardiff, had been completely reorganised and equipped with modern and up-to-date requirements, and was now under the supervision of a highly skilled and competent masseuse. Qualified nurses who were desirous of obtaining a certificate in massage were now able to receive their instruction and training at the Hospital, and thus save themselves the trouble and expense of obtaining them in London or other hospital centres. The completion of the massage department, he added, was another advance in the general efficiency of the Hospital.

A meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Taunton, on the 29th inst., the object being to secure some system of co-operation and co-ordination in respect to nursing in the county of Somerset.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEDICAL INSPECTORS.

The work of the women inspectors under the Midwives Act, 1902, who investigate cases of inflammation of the eyes of infants, and cases of pemphigus neonatorum, and puerperal fever, having increased greatly since ophthalmia neonatorum was made compulsorily notifiable in London, the maximum salary attached to these positions has been increased from £350 to £400. The inspectors are medical practitioners. In 1908, the first year of compulsory notification, 80 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were visited; in 1912 over 500 cases were dealt with.

MIDWIVES IN THE METROPOLIS.

A return presented to the London County Council on Tuesday shows that 536 certified midwives gave notice during 1913 of their intention to practise in the county, an increase of 8 over the number the previous year. There were, in addition, 24 notices of intention to practise during part of the year.

A NEW APPOINTMENT.

As an experiment, the London County Council has employed school nurses for the inspection, at night, of common lodging houses, and the results have shown it to be most desirable that common lodging houses at which women are accommodated, should be inspected by a woman inspector. A position of the kind has therefore been created, the salary being fixed at £150 a year, rising by annual increments of £10 to a maximum of £200. Applications will be invited by public advertisement.

The Establishment Committee of the Council also recommended that the employment of four school nurses in the Public Health Department, on one night a week, on the night inspection of common lodging houses occupied by women, and licensed by the Council, be continued up to and including 31st March, 1914; a remuneration of 10s. a night being allowed to each nurse when so employed. The recommendation was approved.

METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

How much damage may be done by a careless printer's error was unfortunately proved under this heading last week. In our report of the business of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, at its last sitting, when it considered the recommendation that sanction be given for the use until 11 p.m. of artificial light for the sisters in its service, and which we reported was "approved" by it, the word "opposed" was substituted in error by the printer—thus making it appear that the Board had refused the privilege which it had kindly granted. We are always pleased to note any relaxations of rules of an unnecessarily restrictive nature by those responsible for the happiness and contentment of nurses; and have had occasion to record in several instances the efforts of the Metropolitan Asylums Board to deal

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