

after the war it would be more than ever in favour of the nurses, because of the part the nurses were playing in it. She appealed to the Council to grant the request of the nurses.

Mr. Thomas Mitchell, who supported the reduction, said he did not know any class of workers in or about the city more justly entitled to consideration than nurses. No other class of workers would tolerate the hours put in by the nurses. He could not imagine why legislation had not stepped in already.

At a meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association on November 11th, at which Miss Despard presided, Dr. Stoney gave a most interesting lecture on "Fractures," illustrated by X-ray photographs. At the close of the lecture the chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer which was cordially given. There was an excellent attendance.

The support which trained nurses may receive from a strong professional association is instanced in a case reported in *Una* of the nursing staff of a hospital in Australia who complained of the conduct towards some of the members of the chief resident medical officer.

The Board of Management found this official guilty of grave indiscretion, and reprimanded him, intimating that a repetition of the conduct complained of would lead to instant dismissal. The Matron and nurses were dissatisfied with this decision, and informed the Board that they could not remain in the hospital if the doctor were reinstated, but offered to continue their duties for another month to enable the Board to fill their places, providing he were given leave of absence for that time. This the Board declined to do, and the Matron and forty-five nurses left the hospital the day the chief resident medical officer resumed duty, one Sister, one second-year nurse, and five probationers deciding to remain. The action of the Matron and her staff was upheld by the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, who informed the Board that they would not recognize the hospital as a training school so long as the C.R.M.O. remained in charge.

The General Committee then held a meeting and condemned the action of the Board, some of the members of which said that they quite expected the doctor to resign after the severe reprimand administered. He has now been given leave of absence, together with the seven nurses above mentioned, pending further inquiry, and the Matron has been invited, and agreed, to call her staff together and resume duty.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.

A terrible tragedy occurred last week at Bethlem Hospital, S.E., made public owing to the inquest held by the Southwark Coroner, with reference to the death of five patients, who succumbed to the effects of an overdose of amylene hydrate—a sedative drug, dispensed by a member of the medical staff.

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. G. Porter Phillips, said that, owing to the War, the staff had been seriously depleted, consequently the dispensing had to be done by a member of the medical staff, who made up a draught for eleven patients, including the five deceased. All were taken ill, two were not then out of danger, and four had completely recovered.

Dr. H. T. Jones, who acted as dispenser, said that when making up the draughts he found the bottle which usually contained dilute amylene hydrate empty, and he supplied the draughts from another bottle which he assumed contained a reserve stock, but, in fact, contained the concentrated drug.

The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure, and recommended that, in future, such drugs should be kept in bottles, easily distinguished by touch or label.

It seems incredible that, even if the staff were depleted, a rich hospital like Bethlem should not have engaged a qualified dispenser.

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