

McGaw, Mrs. Model, Mrs. Norman Moore, Mr. H. Picton Morris, Sir Shirley Murphy, Mr. E. H. Pelham, Miss Zoe I. Puxley, Miss Pye, Mr. E. B. Turner, and Mr. O. E. Warburg, with authority to co-opt three additional members.

The Asylums and Mental Deficiency Committee of the London County Council last week presented an exhaustive Report on the Mental Deficiency Act, which came into force on April 1st of the present year, and its administrative difficulties. The administration of the Act evidently bristles with difficulties, but in the interests of a sad and most helpless class of the community, it is to be hoped that they will eventually be overcome and its smooth working ensured.

At a meeting of the Battersea and Wandsworth Guardians last week, two questions of nursing interest were discussed:—(1) The serious position in which the institution has been placed, by nurses joining organizations rendering them liable to be called upon at a moment's notice, was considered on a letter from the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Nixey, who said that their twelve nurses had been brought down to eight, and they had been unable to fill the vacancies. The Assistant Matron had gone, and six probationers. There were between 220 and 250 children in the infirmary suffering from acute disease. There was difficulty in staffing the wards. (2) The question of paying the nurses on war service, at home and abroad, half salaries, as well as keeping their places open for them. The latter may very well be done, but we agree with the Chairman, Canon Curtis, that as both Sisters and Nurses receive salaries and emoluments "nearly three times as much as the nurses who are remaining at home," there is no need for the ratepayers to pay them half their salaries in addition. It was resolved that the resolution giving half-pay to nurses should be rescinded, so that nurses leaving the institution in the future should not receive it.

At the request of Miss Cockeram, Superintendent Nurse of the Barnet Union, the day nurses are to have two hours off duty daily, besides a half-day and whole day monthly. This will necessitate an increase in the staff, of two if not three trained nurses. The charge nurses are also to be given the title of Sister. The Guardians have agreed to provide a paid cook for the nursing staff, and extensive alterations in the Nurses' Home are being made

for their comfort, including arrangements for separate bedrooms.

A trained nurse writes, "Poor Sister Phipps has not died in vain, but what a price to pay before reforms are effected."

At a recent meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Walsingham Union, the Rev. A. L. Hunt said a special meeting had been held to consider the reasons which led to the frequent changes of nurses, and to suggest remedies. As the Matron disclaimed all responsibility for several serious defects adduced which tended to the discomfort of the nurses, it was mutually agreed that the case should be laid before the Local Government Board. A letter to the Local Government Board detailing the situation, which had been drafted by the Clerk, was approved. Amongst the complaints were that the nurses' bedrooms were not properly cleaned by the inmates set to do the work, and the service of food was not what it should be. The nurses did not complain of the quality of the food, but said that the dinner was sent up dirty, and the inmate who took it up was dirty in herself and her habits.

The Master and Matron considered that the correction of these shortcomings was not the duty of the Matron, and that when an inmate had been detailed to clean the nurses' rooms, it was their duty to see she did the work properly, the Matron considered it would be an unwarrantable intervention on her part if she went into the nurses' bedrooms to see that the work was properly done. She regarded each officer's bedroom as sacred to the occupier. The Guardians did not share these views, and, pending a decision, the Matron said she would see there was no further occasion for complaint.

Two very interesting lectures have recently been delivered to the members of the Irish Nurses' Association at 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin—the first, on November 25th, by Mr. Lindeburg, a Masseur, on "Remedial Exercises for S-shaped Scoliosis," the lecturer giving practical demonstrations of these exercises; and the second, on Wednesday in last week, when Dr. Purser lectured on "Enteric Fever."

The Irish Nurses' Association, which has always realized the importance of securing the interest of the Irish Members of Parliament in the Nurses' Registration Bill, has recently brought the question prominently to their attention once again. The solidarity of the Irish nurses on the Registration question is reflected in the unanimity of the Irish Members in the House of Commons.

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