

down from headquarters. Finally, she urged the appointment of a sub-committee of nurses to help in the work that would be caused if these changes were made. Mrs. Olive (Oxford) supported the views of the other speakers, and in the unavoidable absence of the fifth member, Miss Lilley (Matron North Devon Hospital), her views were read by Miss Sewart. Miss Lilley urged that the lectures and examinations in nursing should be given by certificated nurses with experience in teaching and examining. Medical men had little knowledge of nursing. She suggested also that no examination should be held by a person living within a certain radius of the centre, as personal considerations would come in; that the fee should be the same for men or women; that the examinations should be graduated into first, second, and third year, and the proficiency medal be abolished. Miss Lilley then sketched a scheme for the three years' training.

A kind "Nannie," to whom a very precocious little boy of four was devoted, was blamed one day by her master, when the child astonished us by the astute remark, "Blaming it on to Eve again," a remark which has, of course, in that household remained a proverb unto this day.

"Blaming it on to Eve" is often the unjust result of a hospital mistake, and we note in an action brought in the Bloomsbury County Court last week by a young woman, for burning and disfigurement of her face by an anaesthetist—who, when she was approaching a state of collapse, reached round to a cupboard behind him for a smelling-salts bottle, which, without further inspection, he applied to her nose, and burnt her face with the acid it contained—that medical witnesses stated it was the duty of the nurse to take the bottle back to the skin department to which it belonged. We do not wish to exonerate the nurse for failing to do so, but we do protest against her being held responsible for carelessness upon the part of "Adam." It was a very unfortunate accident, and only proves how careful both doctors and nurses should be in handling and administering drugs. The poor patient is receiving treatment which it is hoped may diminish the disfigurement.

There is no department of a hospital in which a competent Matron takes a greater or more legitimate pride than the linen store. The replenishing of this store is always a pleasure—always a source of anxiety—because aspirations and possibilities limited by means (or the want of them) are so at variance. So when

good fairies in the form of a Ladies' Linen League come along no wonder the Matron rejoices. This is signally the case at the West Herts Hospital, Hemel Hempstead, where the Linen League has now completed two years of existence, and at its annual meeting Mrs. Hext, who presided, was able to announce that the money had come in to a larger degree. Perhaps the greatest labour of love came from those who had a great deal of work to do in their own homes and had not much money to give, but gave their time and industry. During the past year £73 15s. was raised, and 910 articles collected. All the pillows have been cleaned and remade, and 24 feather pillows have been obtained, as well as two water-beds and a supply of waterproof sheeting.

Mr. T. Norton Longman, on behalf of the Governors, received the gift, warmly thanking Mrs. Hext, and speaking in high terms of the work of the nurses, and of their splendid leader (Miss Sempill), a Matron so patient, kind, considerate, so firm and yet so gentle, so invaluable at an operation.

Dr. F. C. Fisher spoke of the many needs of the hospital, including the overhauling and making of mattresses, of waterproof sheeting, and of extra blankets for the Shelters.

We republish a report from the *Barnet Press* of a recent meeting of the Barnet Board of Guardians. It throws strong light on the hopeless inadequacy of trained nursing, now procurable for the poor in many Poor Law institutions.

When the question of the difficulty of obtaining the services of nurses was under consideration, a suggestion was made that male nurses should be employed.—Mr. Clayton said that he thought the engagement of male nurses would be a good idea.—Mr. Hackforth Jones said that there was no accommodation for male nurses, and that if male nurses were engaged, complications would ensue.—Mr. Horgan said that men were not particular where they slept. A barracks was good enough for them. He suggested that the Guardians should engage male nurses for the male wards.—Miss Hawkins asked if it was proposed to have a male superintendent nurse.—Mr. Horgan said that male nurses were accustomed to work under the instruction of female superintendents.—Mr. Shipley said that he would like to know what the men would be paid.—Mr. Horgan said that he could get that information.—On the suggestion of Mr. Lucas, the matter was referred to the house committee for report.—Asked if the temporary nurses

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