

"Married Masters and Matrons under the Poor Law," a subject which should give rise to a very lively discussion.

The Reunion of the Kensington Infirmary Nurses' League, held at the Infirmary on Wednesday, January 6th, was a great success. Many nurses attended from all parts, and everyone seemed delighted to be back at the school where so many happy days had been passed, once again. In the course of the evening's proceedings a very interesting ceremony was the presentation of two gold badges to nurses, and these were gained by Nurse Blatchford and Nurse Wharton, who have both gained the reputation of being very good all-round nurses during their three years' training. We wish the League all success.

No one who remembers the type of woman who entered our training schools twenty years ago can have failed to realise that of late years there has been a sad depreciation in the educational standard and home culture of such pupils. It has been most marked. Of late, gentlewomen (in the truest sense) have almost entirely given up nursing as a profession. Those of us who have been striving for a quarter of a century to raise nursing by raising and securing its educational curriculum have seen this gradual decline with sadness. Last year in many first-class schools well-educated probationers were not to be got, and we learn from several reliable matrons that since the war they have had a remarkable increase of applications from excellent candidates, and can now "pick and choose." The war has once more brought nursing into prominence, and many sensible girls realise that before practising it is their duty to get thoroughly trained. This is good news indeed, and we hope the experience of the matrons we mention may be the experience far and wide. It would indeed be a silver lining to the terrible war cloud.

We still receive complaints that the admittance of girls for a few weeks' training into our training schools makes for lack of discipline; but as the majority pay good fees, it is feared the Committees will not resist the combined blandishments of social pressure and hard cash—a very potent combination.

The late Mr. John Burgess, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, left £800 to Miss Mabel Nunn, and £600 to Miss Elizabeth Hall, his two nurses. Such recognition of kind services is gratifying to the profession as a whole.

At a recent meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians, the usual discussion took place on sectarian lines on the appointment of new probationers. Mr. Adams said he thought the time had arrived when the number of Roman Catholic and Protestant nurses should be fixed, so that all bickering should cease. When this was being done the number of Protestant inmates and the amount of money contributed by Protestant ratepayers should be taken into consideration.

This seems a reasonable suggestion.

As we have previously reported, Miss Joan Schweitzer, Matron of the Frere Hospital, East London, South Africa, had taken up energetically the work of helping as Chairwoman to organize the South African Trained Nurses' Association. Now comes the regrettable news that she has been requested by the Board of the hospital to give up her post as Matron on account of her German nationality, and she has therefore resigned her membership of, and official positions on, the Association. Considering that very strong feeling has been aroused by war in Europe, and by the fact that South Africa is actively engaged in war with Germany, no other solution to the difficulty presumably presented itself to the Board of the Frere Hospital. The fact, however, remains that in appointing a German lady, who had no further experience than that of a staff nurse at the London Hospital, as Matron of the Frere Hospital, the Board showed very little sense of responsibility to the nursing profession in South Africa. It was felt at the time that there was an ample supply of trained and experienced British nurses, both in South Africa and at home, who had a prior claim to this position, and that there was no reason whatever for appointing a foreigner, even if she had good experience of hospital management and nurse training to her credit, which Miss Schweitzer apparently had not. Let us hope the Board, in making a future appointment, will avoid placing itself and its matron in an invidious position. Under the circumstances, we are of opinion that Miss Schweitzer has been unfortunate, and hope that under her own Flag she may obtain work in which her public spirit may ultimately be of use to the profession in general.

Before leaving the Frere Hospital, Miss Schweitzer was presented with a beautiful locket and a volume of E. B. Browning's poems by the nursing staff, who expressed in a letter their sincere regret at her departure from the hospital.

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