

## THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

### MISS F. PARKER SPANN.

Miss F. Parker Spann, who has recently joined the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, is the Matron of the Township Infirmary, Beckett Street, Leeds. Miss Spann was trained at the Union Infirmary, Birkenhead, and is a certified midwife and certificated masseuse, and after holding various posts in Liverpool, Bury, Sheffield, and Birmingham, was appointed to her present position in July, 1914. As a member of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, she was called up for active service the following August, but upon the request of the Guardians of the Beckett Street Infirmary, as the need was urgent, she resigned her position as a Territorial Sister and took up work there on September 1st. The Assistant Matron of the Infirmary left the following day for active service, and a number of the Sisters and Staff Nurses have left since for military work.

Since Miss Spann's appointment as Matron at the Beckett Street Infirmary, a teacher of invalid cookery has been appointed, and a course of instruction in invalid cookery established. Forty-four members of the nursing staff have been successful in obtaining this extra certificate. One of Miss Spann's earnest hopes is that the day will come when all Poor Law Infirmarys, recognised as training schools, are entirely separate from the workhouses and under quite separate administration. A number of patients are admitted to such infirmaries through the workhouse, but a larger number come direct from their own homes and never enter the workhouse at all. Miss Spann emphasises the fact that the infirmary nurse who is thoroughly trained should not be confused with the workhouse attendant who is often called "nurse," who has had no recognised training, though she may be efficient in her work as an attendant.

Miss Spann is interested not only in the training of nurses, but in their welfare after they leave the training school. As we last week announced, a League of the certificated nurses of the school

has now been formed through which they will have the opportunity of professional and social intercourse. She is also a member of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

Recently important extensions of the Beckett Street Infirmary have been opened by the Chairman, Mr. Alfred Hobson, involving an expenditure of £11,000, and including a children's hospital with 138 beds and an operating theatre constructed on the most up-to-date lines, a new administrative block, a receiving ward, and blocks for the sick and infirm. An X-ray apparatus is also to be installed. All that now remains to complete the original scheme is a maternity ward, and a lock ward.

In declaring the new buildings open the Chairman remarked that there was little doubt workhouse infirmaries would occupy a much more important place in the future than at present, as a wider meaning was now being given to the term destitution.

Mr. P. H. Bagenal, Local Government Board Inspector, who was present, congratulated the Board of Guardians on the way in which they had carried out the extensions. The buildings had, he said, been erected in the nick of time. The lives of children were ten times more important than ever before, and it was an imperative duty to save the life of every child. However much Guardians might be criticised for their slowness, when they took a thing in hand they carried it out in the best possible way.

Coincident with the opening of the new buildings it is proposed, subject to the consent of the Local Government Board to appoint consulting surgeons to the Infirmary whose services will be available at the request of the Medical Superintendent not only for general surgical operations, but in those of throat, eye, nose and ear affections, and in difficult midwifery cases.

"German Atrocities: An Official Investigation," by J. H. Morgan, M.A., Professor of Constitutional Law in the University of London, should be read by everyone who desires to realise the psychology of the German soldier.



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