

the status of the nurses. He hoped that soon measures would be taken to give them longer holidays and shorter hours. They needed more encouragement than any class of workers. Theirs was the hardest and most uncongenial work that could be, after three years' training. Those who passed the Medico-Psychological examination, which he believed grew stiffer every year, should have improved status. He suggested an increase of salary, and that the title of Sister should be conferred upon them. Nurses on the male side had been a great innovation, and he was glad to say had proved a great success.

Sir James Crichton Browne, F.R.S., said he could recall the time when the asylum nurses were regarded as of rather inferior order in the nursing hierarchy, and their sisters in the general hospitals were apt to look rather disdainfully at them, but they had during this crisis proved themselves their equals by their tact, insight, forbearance, and their especial value in the nursing of nervous cases. The speaker went on to compare the vaunted superiority of German methods of dealing with the insane with those that prevailed in our own asylums, and declared that while students had formerly flocked to their universities we had nothing to learn from them. Long after brutal methods had been discarded in England they were practised in Germany. In former years, when visiting their asylums for the insane, he could not help being struck with the difference in atmosphere, one being characterised by a hard severity and coarseness, the other by urbanity and kindness. He had turned from their psychological works in disgust and thanked God that in the future we should have a home-grown psychology marked by clearness and common sense.

Dr. G. E. Shuttleworth advocated a pension for nurses after twenty-five years' service. Asylum workers worked behind a high wall, and their kind, able, self-sacrificing labours were not sufficiently known. When the happy times of peace arrived the Board of Control would open many new institutions for mental defectives. It was hoped that the nurses for this branch would be well equipped. The Board of Control intended after six months' service to investigate the qualifications they possessed and to help them to get on.

Out of the twelve medallists for long service only one, Miss E. A. Grover (Colney Hatch Asylum) was able to be present to receive her medal. Great pressure of additional work prevented many members from being present.

The following is the list of awards:—

GOLD MEDALS.

Mr. J. Ower, of East Riding Asylum, Beverley, with 43 years and 4 months' service.

Miss E. G. Miles, of Hants County Asylum, with 29 years and 8 months' service.

SILVER MEDALS.

Mr. J. H. Hodges, of Brislington House, with 38 years and 10 months' service.

Miss A. A. Mingay, of Colney Hatch Asylum, with 29 years and 7 months' service.

BRONZE MEDALS.

Mr. C. Rowbury, Whittingham Asylum; Mr. G. N. Farley, Grahamstown Asylum, South Africa; Mr. H. Ruler, Kent County Asylum, Maidstone; Mr. D. Davies and Mr. H. Jonas, North Wales Counties Asylum, Denbigh; Miss A. E. Theakston, East Riding Asylum, Beverley; Miss C. Parry, North Wales Counties Asylum, Denbigh; Miss E. A. Grover, Colney Hatch Asylum. All of whom have 25 years' service to their credit.

Tea and coffee were afterwards served in the library.

APPOINTMENTS.

SISTER.

Tredegar Park Cottage Hospital, Tredegar, Mon.—Miss Gertrude Thomas has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon., and has been Night, Ward, and temporary Theatre Sister at Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common, S.W., Assistant Matron at the General Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil, and Sister at the Research Hospital, Cambridge.

QUEEN VICTORIA JUBILEE INSTITUTE.

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Miss Frances Bridgman is appointed to Shotley Bridge; Miss Beatrice Carr, to Consett (Medomsley); Miss Charlotte Scarfe, to Sheerness, as Senior; Miss Mary Welch, to Woolwich.

WAR CROSS FOR THE QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS.

During his visit to the Belgian zone this week President Poincaré conferred the War Cross on the Queen of the Belgians as a token of the admiration of the French people for her heroic devotion.

HARD LABOUR FOR NURSEMAID FOR WEARING RED CROSS NURSE'S UNIFORM.

As we go to press we learn that Edith Ethel Noales, 24, nursemaid, was sentenced on Tuesday at the Woolwich Police Court, to one month's hard labour for wearing the uniform of a British Red Cross Nurse. We have not the report of the proceedings before us, but cannot but think that as every nursemaid is at liberty to wear the uniform of nurses attached to our best training schools, and that as domestic servants in the employment of members of the medical staffs of some of these institutions have for years been encouraged to wear trained nurses' uniform, and as thousands of snobs insist upon their nursemaids wearing it, the sentence on this unfortunate young woman is most severe.

We cannot believe that our humane King can, under the circumstances, approve of this drastic sentence of hard labour for a first offence.

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