

## THE ASYLUM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association was held this year at the Mansion House on Monday last, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, who is a Vice-President of the Association, presiding. The Annual Report was adopted, and a resolution moved by Lieut.-Col. Thomson, M.D., making clear that all Asylum Workers are eligible for membership of the Association. The speaker, who is Commanding Officer of the Norfolk War Hospital, formerly the Norfolk County Asylum, spoke warmly of the work of asylum-trained nurses during the war. It was an interesting coincidence that Miss Hamer, Matron of the hospital, who has been decorated by the King with the Royal Red Cross, was one of those who on Monday received the gold medal of the Association given for long service.

The following is the list of those so honoured :—

## MEDALLISTS, 1917.

## GOLD.

Mr. R. Walters, Head Attendant, Grahamstown Asylum, South Africa, with 41 years' and 10 months' service.

Miss M. S. Hamer, Matron, Norfolk War Hospital (late Norfolk County Asylum), with 34 years' and 9 months' service.

## SILVER.

Mr. F. C. Adlam, Chief Attendant, Portsmouth Asylum, with 40 years' and 4 months' service.

Miss H. H. Church, Head Day Nurse, L.C.A., Colney Hatch, with 29 years' and 9 months' continuous service in one Asylum.

## BRONZE.

Mr. J. C. Stratford, Charge Attendant, The Retreat, York; Mr. J. A. Dixon, Chief Attendant, Wadsley, W.R.A.; Mr. F. C. Wreford, Charge Attendant, Exeter City Asylum; Mr. D. Chalmers, Head Attendant, Lanark District Asylum; Mr. J. Davidson, Tailor Attendant, Norfolk War Hospital; Mr. G. R. Whatley, Charge Attendant, Norfolk War Hospital; Mr. E. G. Wilson, Ward and Charge Attendant, Norfolk War Hospital; Mr. G. Powell, Charge Night Attendant, Norfolk War Hospital; Miss E. M. Cranswick, Charge Day Nurse, Hull City Asylum; Miss F. Mileham, Charge Nurse, Norfolk War Hospital.

## TUBERCULOSIS AMONGST NURSES.

*The American Journal of Nursing* suggests that Nursing Associations in every State could do very effective work by making a census of tuberculosis among nurses. The suggestion is that each State Association should appoint a committee to take this work in hand, to confer first with local associations and ascertain how many of their members have this trouble, then with the different hospitals devoted to the cure of such patients, for the number for which they are caring. Members should not be left to endure financial anxiety without assistance from their professional organisations.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK.

FROM WORKHOUSE TO WESTMINSTER.  
THE LIFE STORY OF WILL CROOKS, M.P.\*

It's a far cry from the Workhouse to Westminster, but that wonderful and laborious journey was accomplished by the remarkable man of whom this book is the life record; or rather part of a life, for Will Crooks, we are glad to say, is very much alive still.

It is, as "the author states," the first biography of a working man who has deliberately chosen to remain in the ranks of working men, as well as in their service."

Will Crooks never forgets his early experience as a Poor Law child, and this, instead of embittering him, has filled him with lasting tender compassion for the waifs that for some cause or another have found in the workhouse their only home. Of course it must be remembered that his childhood dates back many years, and that the condition of the Poor Law Child in many Unions is now vastly improved. One of his earliest recollections was seeing his mother cry when he woke up in the little box bedstead by the wall where he slept with three other of the children.

"What are you crying for, mother?"

"It's through wondering where the next meal is coming from, my boy."

He puzzled his young head to know what it all meant.

"My mother crying because she can't get bread for us. Why can't she get bread? I saw plenty of bread in the shops yesterday. Do all mothers have to cry before they get bread for their children?"

Things went from bad to worse until the Crooks family had to enter the workhouse.

"Every day I spent in that school is burnt into my soul," he has often declared since. He could not sleep at night, nor play with the other boys, haunted as he was by the strange dread that he must have committed some unknown crime to be taken from his home and made a little captive in what seemed a fearful prison.

The shuddering memories of his own dark days in the workhouse made him register a vow, little chap though he was at the time, that when he grew up to be a man he would do all he could to make better and brighter the lot of the inmates, especially that of the boys and girls.

"Some children's dreams come true, and this was one of them."

It is not perhaps generally known that Will Crooks was one of the chief promoters of the Bill for the Protection of Infant Life.

"Day after day the Labour man strove with barristers and members of Parliament in the Commons Committee Room to safeguard infants of misfortune from cruelty and neglect. His advocacy prevailed. Baby-farming, as then existing in London, came to an end."

\* By G. Haw. Cassell & Co., London.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)