

have had an added interest if the trained nurse had also come under review, but it was not possible to include every class of worker.

The Annual Meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association will be held on Tuesday, November 27th, at 3 p.m., at 6, Ormonde Gate, Chelsea, kindly lent by Lord Plunket. Miss Stansfeld, Chief Lady Inspector, L.G.B., will preside, and Mrs. Luke Paget, wife of the Bishop of Stepney, will speak. Ormonde Gate is a continuation of Smith Street, a turn off the King's Road. Buses 11, 19, and 22 pass the top of Smith Street, and it is also near Sloane Square Station. Tea will be provided after the meeting, which it is hoped will be attended by Associate-Members.

That more patients did not perish in the terrible fire in a wooden annexe at the Crumpsall Infirmary, Manchester, in which fifteen of the inmates lost their lives, is due, in great measure, to the heroism of Nurse Fairhurst, who made almost superhuman efforts to save those in her charge. The unselfishness of one of the patients should also be recorded. Seeing that Nurse Fairhurst, who was carrying her, was almost overcome with the smoke, she appealed to her to leave her and to save her own life.

The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava presided at the annual meeting of the Bangor (Co. Down) District Nursing Society. A very satisfactory report was presented, and the attention paid to saving infant life and the care of child health was emphasised. An interesting feature of the proceedings was the address by Lady Hermione Blackwood on "Nursing Experiences in the War Zone."

An interesting article, by Miss Mary Beard, R.N., President of the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing, Director Instructive District Nursing Association, Boston, U.S.A., appears in the October issue of the *Modern Hospital*, entitled, "The Family as the Unit of Public Health Work." Speaking of the public health nurse, Miss Beard says:—

"I think she may claim the title of public health nurse only if she has as her first conception of her daily duties the conviction that upon her observation and foresight depends the health of the whole family into which she may be called for one or another purpose. . . . Of course, the correction of defects may be the pivot upon which the whole family turns. The

deplorable condition of the teeth, so universally found by public health nurses, sometimes make them sure that there is no avenue to health but the dentist's chair, but though this may be true of dentistry and other specialities, the public health nurse who loses the all-round view of her families in pursuit of any one object will soon lose her usefulness."

She goes on to say that "many people are learning now for the first time of the effort to make health as much a matter of course with American families as education has been for generations." The new public health nurse "is the result of the process of evolution, and was only thirty years ago a bedside nurse for the 'sick poor' of our large cities. Thirty years ago the Sick Poor were entitled to capital letters, and belonged to a class in the community utterly unlike all other men and women. The realisation that social conditions limit and control health to a great degree has given our modern legislation a new turn, as we see in the laws for mothers with dependent children, workmen's compensation laws, and the agitation for several forms of insurance."

Speaking of the various forms of administering Public Health, Miss Beard says:—"However varied these activities may be, the true public health nurse will be found to be doing *family health work* wherever she goes, and to be always observing and teaching the laws of health, in order that she may prevent the inevitable disaster which follows disobedience to these laws. In 1917 the nurses added to their other work the home care of children paralysed in the epidemic of infant paralysis last summer. . . . The general idea of administering the nursing service from the centre is that known as generalised public health nursing, which means that, so far as possible, only one nurse shall visit any home for the purpose of performing any health function whatever."

A little bird whispers that the gentleman who holds three positions of financial influence in nurses' societies which are in no way sympathetic to one another is beginning to find the difficulty of riding the wind on these three somewhat obstreperous steeds, and also that another known to fame as the Uncle Pumblechook of the nursing profession expresses the opinion that in the case of the College, at least, a man with the reputation of a great financier should control the finances of this Company.

We wonder who he has in his mind as the financial genius who should be entrusted to manage the nurses' money!

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