

Bartholomew's Hospital while under the influence of stovaine, the Coroner, Dr. Waldo, said that in consequence of some remarks which he had made at the first hearing as to the administration of anæsthetics by students and nurses—a practice which does not obtain at St. Bartholomew's Hospital—a medical practitioner had written to the *Times* expressing the opinion that it was regrettable more attention had not been paid to the subject.

The jury, returning a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, added a rider that no general or local anæsthetic should be administered by any but a duly qualified medical man, except in most exceptional circumstances, and that the Medical Research Committee and the Ministry of Health be requested to inquire into all matters connected with anæsthetics given for operations.

The Red Cross announces that fifty-four V.A.D.s have been awarded scholarships. Of these, two are for pharmacy, one physical culture, six massage, one welfare supervisors, fifteen general nursing training, fifteen midwifery, and two village nurses.

We disapprove on principle of money subscribed to the Red Cross Society being used for any purpose than for the direct benefit of sick and wounded sailors and soldiers—and God knows plenty of them need it—but it is satisfactory to find that V.A.D.s are willing in considerable numbers to enter hospitals for general training. It would be interesting to know if they have to return the grant if they fail to fulfil their obligations. We make this enquiry because we learn, on good authority, that the V.A.D.s are not invariably the angels the Press has painted them, once they are set to do the arduous work in hospital wards, which thousands of "hired" nurses have cheerfully undertaken in the past. Moreover, they find the hospital commissariat far from appetising.

In this connection we shall be obliged if anyone will verify the truth of the following statement. We are informed that at one leading London Hospital the dinners weekly are as follows:—two days hard dark liver (this is, of course, frozen—the sort bought for bow-wows), two days sausages, one day meat, one day fish, few green vegetables, and innocuous puddings.

We realise the difficulties of catering under present conditions, but must draw the line at frozen liver.

But when all is said or done, the standard of our cookery is abominable, and the sooner we have a Bill for the registration of cooks, now legislation for nurses is out of the way, the better.

When we remember the nurses' meals served at the *Maison de Santé*, Bordeaux, with one woman cook only for the whole staff, we want an aeroplane to swoop down on that institution and whisk away Mlle. Mignot and her dietetic artist. Even in the wilds of Eubœa during the Græco-Turkish War, we still have tender memories of the culinary necromancer, "Anatole," who, over two little coke holes, prepared delicious ragouts for a hundred patients, and a five-course dinner for the staff!—and this, moreover, without apparently any material to work with whatever!

Anyway, as food values and invalid cookery will form an important department of nursing education in the future, let us hope the General Nursing Council will in time do much to instruct the community concerning the relations of food and health. We appear, however, to have wandered "some" from that gruesome frozen liver. What we want to know is—is it or is it not, an item in the nurses' menu of one of our leading training schools? Please tell.

PRESENTATION.

Miss Ruffle, late Matron of the Porthcawl Rest was recently the recipient of a presentation at Porthcawl. Mr. Martin Price, Secretary of the Engineers' Institute, of Cardiff, presided over a representative gathering at the Council Chamber. The presentation took the form of an inscribed album and a cheque for over £37. During her matronship at the Rest, extending from 1916 to 1919, 3,000 wounded soldiers passed through her charge. Miss Ruffle suitably responded.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The Lady Mayoress of London has issued an Appeal to the Women of the Empire to rally round Britain's Mother Hospital (St. Bartholomew's), which is in a perilous position.

The famous Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House was a palace of delight for children on December 11th and 12th, when thousands of lovely dolls were sold in support of the appeal.

For £80,000, Brig.-General Sims, Agent-General for Ontario, has sold on behalf of his Government the Ontario Military Hospital at Orpington to the Ministry of Pensions, for the care and treatment of convalescent and disabled soldiers handed over to the Ministry by the War Office.

The hospital has accommodation for 2,000 patients, and was the largest Canadian military hospital in England.

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