

We therefore ask nurses to make a note of the above-mentioned date and hope that all who can will attend and so help us in our endeavours to increase the powers of the Council to grant annuities to nurses who, owing to the small scale of salaries in the past, have been quite unable to provide for their future.

MOVEMENTS OF MEMBERS.

Miss Mary Arney, at the urgent request of some of her patients, is returning to the South of France to resume private practice out there.

Miss Marion C. Atkinson has been appointed to a Government hospital in Egypt. She trained at King's College Hospital and holds the certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

Miss Mabel Beck has received an appointment at the Girls' Reformatory School, Gizeh, Egypt. She was trained at King's College Hospital and shortly after completing her training, secured an appointment through the R.B.N.A. in a large school in Egypt. This post she held for a considerable number of years.

Miss Jessie Mackay has received an appointment in Tranquille Sanatorium, Tranquille, British Columbia, a hospital for soldiers suffering from tuberculosis.

Miss Florence Pond has been appointed Matron of the Hospital at Paparea, New Zealand. The country there is perfectly beautiful, she tells us, although nursing conditions are very different from what they are in England.

Miss Mary Slater has returned from Shanghai, after working for some years there, and intends to take up private nursing practice during the coming winter in London.

Miss Blanche Smith has now given up her temporary appointment at the Isolation Hospital, Durham, and is to take a course of six months' training in the nursing of venereal disease at the Royal Infirmary, Bradford.

MARRIAGES.

We have received notice of the marriage of Miss Evelyn Aubrey to Mr. Finn, of Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa, and also of the marriage of Miss Louisa Bonham to Captain Sidney Stuart Franklin. We offer them warm congratulations and good wishes.

A LECTURE ON SLEEP.

On Saturday, October 9th, at 3 p.m., Miss Mary Good, M.R.B.N.A., will lecture at 10, Orchard Street, W., on "Sleep." The address should prove exceedingly interesting, as Miss Good has made a special study of the Hygiene and Psychology of Sleep, and her remarks are likely to be particularly helpful to nurses. Miss Alice Cattell, Member General Nursing Council, will be in the Chair.

AN INTERESTING CASE.

NURSE FOURTEEN HOURS IN A COFFIN.

The Medical Correspondent of the *Times* reports the following interesting case:—

"Once again the difficult question of the proof of death is raised. In a recent number of a German medical paper (*Deutsche Med. Wochensohn*) there appears an account by Dr. E. Rautenberg of an exceedingly narrow escape from being buried alive. Happily the coffin was re-opened for purposes of identification. The following are the circumstances as given in the organ of the Medical Research Committee (*Medical Science*):—

'On October 27, 1919, a hospital nurse, aged 23, bought from a chemist in Charlottenburg for 20 marks a small quantity of a 3.5 per cent. solution of morphin, and also 10 powders, each containing 0.5 grammes of veronal. She went into the Grünewald, and at about 4 p.m. swallowed 1.7 grammes of morphin and 5 grammes of veronal. She became dazed, and wandered about until she lost consciousness. The temperature was low and the atmosphere damp and chilly. Next day she was found and taken to the mortuary. A doctor saw her and found her deathly pale and pulseless, nor was she breathing. He dropped some sealing wax on the skin, and no reaction took place. He pronounced the body dead, and it was placed in a coffin, still in its wet clothes.

'Some 14 hours later, on October 29, the coffin was re-opened so that a lawyer might identify the body. It appears that the undertaker's men saw that the cheeks were blue and that the head moved slightly. The same doctor was recalled, and now heard faint heart sounds, but there was still no pulse and no breathing.

'The patient was taken to hospital, and at 10 a.m. on October 29—i.e., 42 hours after the swallowing of the poison, the limbs and trunk became partially stiff. She was still unconscious and showed no reaction to stimuli. The heart sounds could now, however, be heard over the breast-bone, the heart beating at 30-40 per minute. There was still no pulse and no breathing. The skin and lips were deathly pale, but the cheeks bluish ("*leicht cyanotisch*"). Active treatment for morphine poisoning—morphine was found in the stomach—now began. The stiffness passed away in two hours, and consciousness was regained on October 30. On November 3 the patient was convalescent. She remained well.

'The case is clearly of an exceptional nature and lends some support to the view that sleep and hibernation have points in common. That the human body can "suspend" its most vital activities would also seem to be suggested, though the evidence on this point is by no means complete.'

We shall be pleased to hear from Members who wish that Lectures should be given on any particular subject.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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