

employer. Whereupon he was asked—if her employer was sick and in bed, what then?

It was also elicited that during any week when there was no employment the card was not stamped and there were no arrears. If a nurse had several employers in a week the card must be stamped by the first. No answer could be given as to whether a contribution would be payable when an Association paid a nurse a retaining fee.

In reply to a question from the Chairman as to the value of board, lodging, and washing, Mr. Munro said that in one case board and lodging had been assessed at £1 is. a week, at which laughter tinkled round the room.

It was agreed to ask the Minister whether, if a nurse earned three guineas a week and emoluments, she would be exempt, and for this purpose to find someone who fulfilled the conditions to put up a test case.

Other questions were asked relating to scrubbers in voluntary hospitals, as to the position of servants in nursing homes, as the Act only exempts servants in private service, but if those in nursing homes were required to pay then the homes would get no servants.

Mr. Munro stated that a person offered a suitable job by an employment exchange would have to take it, but an appeal might be made to an umpire. There was a penalty in the Act for non-insurance.

Miss Ford said that any questions sent in to the Ministry on forms which could be obtained from a Labour Exchange would be answered in due course.

IRISH NURSES' UNION.

A meeting of members of the Irish Nurses' Union was recently held in the Molesworth Hall, Dublin, to consider the question of having a forty-eight hours' week made applicable to the nursing profession. Miss Bennett, President of the Union, presided, and, having referred to its progress and its objects, dealt with the conditions under which nurses worked, and advocated their linking up with trades unionism, because trade unions proposed to take a greater interest in hospitals than ever before, and the levy which it was proposed to put on members of these unions towards the support of their hospitals would bring in something like £60,000 a year to the Dublin hospitals. They would thus realise the influence which trades unionism would exercise on the nursing profession. The President was supported in favour of a forty-eight hours' week by Miss Wickham, Dr. Hennessy, and others, and a resolution was passed expressing the opinion that nurses and probationers should not be excluded from the Government's Hours of Employment Bill (No. 2) and strongly protesting against any proposal to legalise a longer week for nurses than for the general body of workers.

Mr. John Frederick Stancombe, of Shaw House, Melksham, Wilts., who died on July 24th, bequeathed £1,000 to his nurse, Miss E. A. Tomlinson.

WELLHOUSE HOSPITAL.

The long anticipated hospital—the Wellhouse Hospital, High Barnet—belonging to the Barnet Guardians was opened on Tuesday, November 16th, by Lord Hampden, Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire.

The fine block of buildings was begun in the early part of 1915, but owing to the stoppage of building due to the war the work so far as the Guardians were concerned, came to a standstill. But in 1916, it was completed by the Army Council and opened as a war hospital.

Between the years 1916-18, some five and six thousand wounded and sick soldiers received treatment there.

It was handed back to the Guardians in October, 1919, and they purchased from the War Council the complete equipment at a price 10 per cent. less than it cost in 1915.

The building consists of a main block containing six wards on three floors with accommodation for 204 beds.

The thoroughly up-to-date administrative block is designed with a view to supplying the completed building of 600 beds.

The maternity ward and a labour ward contain nine beds, the theatre and dispensary are on the most modern lines. The magnificent kitchen is worked by steam, and provided with hot plates and every device that will ensure the comfort of the patients.

On the south side of the hospital there are pleasant verandahs leading out from the wards, which command a view that is unsurpassed in the county.

Within, the wards have been distempered in a soft restful shade of green. There are delightful day-rooms attached, and thanks to the Army Council, they are exceptionally well provided with comfortable easy chairs.

The opening day was a great success, and St. Martin's summer supplied a perfect autumn day.

The opening ceremony took place in an empty ward on the top floor.

It commenced with dedicatory prayers offered by the Rev. H. S. Miles, Chairman of the Board. The hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past," was accompanied by band which had been engaged for the occasion.

Alderman Park, Chairman of the Barnet Justices, in an interesting speech, pointed out to the visitors that the hospital stood upon historic ground. Centuries ago they had a source of healing in that particular neighbourhood in the form of a physic well.

Samuel Pepys used to partake of its waters. After the usual vote of thanks the invited guests enjoyed the tea hospitably provided by the guardians, medical officer, and some friends. This was delightfully arranged and served by the combined staff of the Institution and hospital, and there was no lack of good things.

The visitors were then invited to inspect the hospital, which at the same moment was thrown open to the ratepayers.

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