

THE ST. MARYLEBONE INFIRMARY.

PROBATIONERS AND PRIZES.

A large hall in this infirmary was filled to overflowing on June 14th to witness a very interesting ceremony. By the courtesy of the Guardians the representative of this Journal was one of the privileged guests. On the dais, which was gay with scarlet and green cloth, large vases of gladiolas, ox-eyed daisies and ferns, sat the Mayor who presided, the Mayoress, Mr. Frank Morris, J.P., Chairman of the Board, Miss Broadbent, Chairman of the Ladies' Visiting Committee, the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Hood, and many guests of honour. With charming courtesy, the Matron, Miss Cockrell, received her numerous guests. The main business of the meeting was preceded by an interesting and concise record, given by Miss Broadbent, of the work done during the strenuous years of the war by (a) the 220 who were on Active Service, and (b) the not less glorious work of those who "carried on" while very short-handed, in the Infirmary. The record included seven nurses who died during the terrible epidemic of influenza pneumonia. Space will unfortunately not admit of giving details of work done, and the rewards gained, by those on Active Service. The Matron's share was large. She first served under the Territorial Force Nursing Service, as Matron of the Refugee Camp at the Alexandra Palace, later at the Maudsley Hospital for Neurasthenics, and finally she superintended the 54th General Hospital in France, when she passed through many exciting experiences.

The Infirmary was opened in 1881, by King Edward (then Prince of Wales). A few years later a training school was started under the guidance of Florence Nightingale. It has good reason to be proud of its history, its nurses and the excellent training given, as the following list of prize and certificate winners will prove.

PRIZES.

1919.

Medical Nursing.—Maitland M. Sills, Prize; Daisy A. Shepherd, Certificate of Merit.

Surgical Nursing.—Maitland M. Sills, Prize; Doris Turner, Blanche Marlow, Certificate of Merit.

Practical Nursing.—Maitland M. Sills, Prize.

Anatomy and Physiology.—Maitland M. Sills, Prize; Blanche Marlow, Certificate of Merit.

Bandaging.—Catherine McLennon, Prize.

For Essay on Economy as Applied to Medical Practice and Hospital Administration.—T. J. Norman, Prize.

The Best Collection of Charts.—Doris Turner, Prize.

1920.

Medical Nursing.—Beatrice M. Smith, Prize; Phyllis M. Hunt, May A. Findlay, Dorothy G. Dowty, Louise T. N. Meldrum, Certificate of Merit.

Surgical Nursing.—Phyllis M. Hunt, Prize; Margaret Hardie, Dorothy G. Dowty, Louise

T. N. Meldrum, Helen E. T. Bailey, Norah Weekley, Violet Thornton, Beatrice M. South, Lilian Meehan, Certificate of Merit.

Practical Nursing.—Louise T. N. Meldrum, Prize; Norah Weekley, Beatrice M. Smith, Certificate of Merit.

Anatomy and Physiology.—Phyllis M. Hunt, Prize; Lilian Meehan, Certificate of Merit.

Bandaging.—Phyllis M. Hunt, Prize; Lilian Meehan, Certificate of Merit.

Best Essay on Economy as Applied to Medical Practice and Hospital Administration.—Violet L. Thornton, Prize.

Best Collection of Charts.—Lilian Meehan, Prize.

GOLD MEDAL.

The Gold Medal was instituted by the Board in 1918, in recognition of the good work performed by the Nursing Staff, both past and present, in the Great War. It is awarded once a year to the best nurse in her final year of training. Three things are taken into consideration: ward work, general character, class and examination results. The first was awarded to Marion Duncan Walker, who died of influenza pneumonia during the epidemic of 1918-1919. Her mother received it. Phyllis M. Hunt was the recipient for 1920.

The very interesting ceremony terminated by a cordial vote of thanks to the Mayor, proposed by Mr. Frank Morris, seconded by Mr. M. C. Walshe.

A generous and dainty tea was afterwards hospitably served to the guests in the garden.

B. K.

PLEDGE MUST BE REDEEMED BY COLLEGE OF NURSING COMPANY.

We have received many letters from members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., who are astounded at the attitude adopted by its Council and Chairman in reference to their guinea Registration Fee. One and all, of course, repudiate any suggestion of mistake. The pledge given that automatically they were to be placed on the State Register without further fee—if they paid the *College a guinea*—was definitely made in print, and the suggestion that there was any ambiguity in the contract is indignantly repudiated. Moreover, many Sisters say that their Matrons urged them to join the College for *this benefit*, and that War Office-Matron officials used endless pressure in France to make them pay up also—and that "pressure under military law, especially with the 'serf clause' in force, was very difficult to resist." We can believe it.

It is not the money which members of the College appear to count so much as the breach of contract, and being treated as imbeciles—and this is the inference gathered from the Chairman's letter that "a certain number of the nurses who joined the College may possibly be under the impression that whatever Registration Bill became law, they would automatically

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)