

## INFIRMARY COMMITTEE'S REPLY.

"(1) This was partially admitted by the Matron; (2) There seems to have been a lack of tooth-brushes in the Male and Female Phthisis Wards which has since been remedied."

## INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

"The Children's Ward was unusually heavy. There were 22 bottle-fed infants suffering from marasmus and enteritis, needing far more care than the capable, kind Sister-in-Charge was able to give them with the nurses at her disposal. The day staff for 52 babies was eight nurses, but two of these are always relieving those who are off duty. At least two extra nurses on day duty and one on night duty are needed as long as these very sick children are in the ward."

## INFIRMARY COMMITTEE'S REPLY.

"In the Children's Ward the work is undoubtedly heavy at present, and this fact has been recognised by sending any available nurses to help there from time to time. The Committee are considering the question of appointing an additional nurse for this Ward.

"From the above it will be seen that the comparatively slight complaints are in reference to 4 Wards out of a total of 23 Wards now in use."

## INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

"Further evidence of a deterioration in the standard of work was seen in the unsatisfactory results of the last final examination. Of 15 candidates 6 failed to satisfy the examiner." Miss Wamsley further suggested a revision of the whole theoretical training of the nurses, and of the syllabus, the appointment of a Tutor Sister, and the alteration of the agreement for future candidates from three to four years, as "with the shortened hours of work the experience gained in three years' training is very much less than was formerly the case."

Miss Wamsley further drew attention to the fact that "the administrative work of the Matron had increased out of all proportion to the extra help granted to her," and pointed out "Arrangements should be made by which the Matron and Assistant Matron's time is less occupied by clerical work, which has grown considerably owing to the introduction of the 48-hour week, with its consequent increase in the nursing and domestic staff. Much more time than is at present possible should be spent in supervising the nursing in the wards. The time of the extra Home Sister granted some months ago is almost entirely taken up in relieving the off-duty hours of the First Home Sister and the Assistant Matron, both of whom only work eight hours daily. Night nurses having their three nights off duty each week attend some day and some night meals, which renders supervision and catering more difficult and complicated." Miss Wamsley also drew attention to the need for extra sitting-room accommodation.

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The Committee state that five not six candidates failed to pass their examination, and the Medical Superintendent does not agree that this should be taken as evidence of the deterioration of work generally. Much, he says, depends on the general education of the candidates and, unfortunately, several were defective in that respect. In one case failure was probably due to the fact that the candidate had been on duty all night, and was not in a fit condition to sit.

The best method of imparting instruction, both Committee and Medical Superintendent point out, is a matter of opinion.

"The whole subject of instruction to nurses is," the Committee state, "under consideration by the General Nursing Council, who are preparing a Syllabus, and will arrange for the Central Examination.

"The other points are all concerned with the 48-hour working week scheme, at present in the experimental stage. . .

"The present experimental arrangement of the staff has not proved quite satisfactory, as it interferes with the continuity of observation of a patient by the nurse, and the Committee are considering the best method of rearranging the hours of duty, and are obtaining information from all available sources."

## INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

"When selecting draw-sheeting the attention of the Contract Committee should be drawn to the importance of choosing a soft absorbent material. The kind in use at present is very harsh and unsuitable for its purpose.

"I would also recommend a better quality of red rubber sheeting as being less likely to crease under the patients' backs than either the red or white mackintosh now in use. The present practice of sending the draw-sheets to the wards rough dry is calculated to increase the tendency of patients to bed sores. It is always desirable that draw-sheets should be calendered in the laundry."

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"The material used for draw-sheets is satisfactory if mangled in the laundry. This is now being done.

"The Committee have instructed the steward to obtain some samples of red rubber sheeting for a test to be made, although the sheeting at present in use. . . has never before formed a subject for complaint."

The Committee, in the concluding paragraphs of their Report, take great exception to the "generalities of the Inspector, evidently based on hearsay, and not borne out by the evidence heard or the records seen by the Committee." It states it "strongly objects to any Inspector making random statements, which in the term 'many' give an impression liable to injure the staff as a whole. Miss Wamsley, in departing from purely Inspectorial comments, has largely deprived her Report of its otherwise valuable recommendations."

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