

We have read with pleasure the report in the *Poor Law Officers' Journal* of the address given by Miss C. E. Todd, M.M., R.R.C., Matron of St. James's Infirmary, Wandsworth. Touching on the New Nursing Syllabus, she said:—

"The teaching staff in the institutions has been greatly augmented. Infirmary authorities have been quick to avail themselves of that recent hospital development—the Tutor-Sister. These Tutor-Sisters, after having completed their hospital training, go to one of the universities for a year. There they continue their theoretical study and, most important of all, are taught how to teach. In hospital they devote their time to teaching and to helping the nurse-student with her work.

Under the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was appointed to form rules as to the admission of nurses to the Register; and to provide institutions as training schools. In the draft syllabus of lectures and demonstrations for education and training in general nursing, the Council outlines the minimum standard of nursing education which they consider necessary for nurses entering for the State examination. All hospitals, if they are to be recognised as training schools, must undertake to teach their nurses on the lines of that syllabus. In and after 1924 nurses must pass the State examination before they can be placed on the Register. This draft syllabus has caused some consternation and much searching of mind (as well as consideration of ways and means) to many of us; but at the same time we welcome it. The issuing of this syllabus; the definite educational standard laid down in it; and the one-portal examination which all nurses—no matter in what school they have been trained—must now pass before they can be registered, should do much to improve the teaching and training in our hospitals and infirmaries, and thereby raise the educational standard of women seeking to enter these schools."

Miss Todd has something worth remembering to say about "The Human Touch":—

"You know that all patients in Poor Law hospitals must, if they have the means to do so, contribute something towards their maintenance. Occasionally some of them feel that this entitles them to demand much more than it is possible to give them. A few of our patients stay in for months and even years; sometimes Sister and the nurses are their only friends. In spite of numerous ward duties it is Sister who finds time to inquire into the history of her patients. She can tell you why

Mrs. A. is not so unreasonable as she appears when she insists on going home though the doctor does not think her fit for discharge; and she knows why Mrs. B., who is perhaps well enough to go, should be kept, if possible, for a few days longer. It is Sister who raids the "giving-away cupboard"—sometimes her own wardrobe—to fit up Mrs. C. for the convalescent home or for clothes for the girl for whom a situation and a fresh start in life have been found. She can tell you all about the children and babies under her care. Even Mrs. Brown, who has brought up seven rickety, white-faced mites on "the same as we 'ave ourselves," has been persuaded by Sister that milk, and not tasty bits of kipper or tomato, is the proper food for No. 8 (aged ten months), when he is sent home cured of enteritis. Then her chronic patients, those poor souls suffering from painful arthritis, paralysis, inoperable cancer and the like, men and women whose whole existence is summed up by those lines in 'The Disciples'—

'Our pain passeth not, nor will pass;  
And only this remains for us to look for—  
More of pain, and doubt if we can bear it  
to the end.'

"Many of these realise that it is not only the skilled nursing they receive which helps them bear that pain, but still more the cheerful, unselfish kindness and the gentleness of those who care for them. I wish these patients could tell you what the word 'Sister' means to them."

### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council will be held, by the kind invitation of the Matron, Miss Helen Lamb, at the Claybury Mental Hospital, Woodford Bridge, Essex, on Saturday, October 22nd, at 3 p.m.

This Mental Hospital has a very high reputation for efficiency, and to be shown its fine system of the care of the insane should attract a large and interested attendance of members, who in their professional career have not been able to acquire systematic knowledge of mental nursing—by many considered the very highest branch of our profession.

Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, accompanied by Princess Marie Louise, drove to Sunningdale on the 28th ult., and paid an informal visit of inspection to the Convalescent Home for London Mothers established by the late Hon. Mrs. Hay-Drummond, of which Her Royal Highness is president.

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