

tions for the reorganization of the Nursing Department and the welfare of the patients.

Mr. Cross was one of the old type of officials whose dignified relations with the Treasurer and Almoners in Committee was a lesson to the modern bureaucrat. Suave, persuasive, full of ripe knowledge, it was always a pleasure to be associated with him when difficulties arose—as they were always smoothed out with marvellous dexterity and good feeling.

Some day when I have time to write a few memoirs, I propose to devote a chapter to my association with Mr. W. H. Cross, for whom I have always retained admiration and warm affection. E. G. F.

South African nursing has sustained a big loss in the death, which occurred at Durbanville, of Miss Damon, for more than twenty years Matron of the Victoria Nurses' Institute. She had much to do with the growth of this organisation, which to-day is highly esteemed by the medical profession, and safeguards the interests of the nursing community. Miss Damon was born in England in 1853, being the daughter of Captain Damon, who fought in the Battle of Trafalgar. Settling in South Africa forty years back, Miss Damon became Matron at Zonnebloom College, and subsequently occupied other responsible posts with great credit to herself. She served in the Boer War, receiving a medal for her service. A large circle of friends mourn the loss of one who was an ornament to her profession.

### A FATAL DECISION.

Efforts were made at the fortnightly meeting of the Bolton Board of Guardians (Councillor W. Grundy presiding) to justify a recommendation of the Townleys Hospital Committee that a Sister-Tutor be advertised for at a salary of £250 per annum (non-resident). Unfortunately a motion by Mr. R. Hargreaves that the matter be referred back was carried by a large majority. He did not think the appointment advisable.

Mrs. H. A. Barnes pointed out that the training of nurses under the syllabus prescribed by the Nursing Council was nowadays entirely different from what it used to be a few years ago when the sister-in-charge was perfectly capable of doing all the necessary training. It was now quite impossible for an ordinary sister-in-charge or a matron with other work on her hands to give the necessary instruction. She did not think it advisable that probationers should have to pick up knowledge in a more or less haphazard way, and the Board should also bear in mind that nowadays they were not getting quite the class of girl for such work as used to be the case. They needed far more education. As the matron of another large hospital recently reminded her, there were now so many different careers open to girls that many of those of the more intelligent type who used to take up nursing were now training for the medical profession. She felt they could get a better class of probationers if it was known they would get the necessary training.

Mr. F. Shippobottom, J.P. chairman of the Townleys Committee, seconded the amendment, which was carried by an overwhelming majority.

This is a fatal decision which will have to be rescinded if Bolton is to rank as a Nurse Training Centre.

### THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The Press is strongly in favour of retaining the voluntary hospital system, as against State control. Experience proves that patients prefer to be treated in voluntary hospitals. At a recent meeting of the Social Democratic Federation, Dr. Ellis Morgan asserted that the voluntary hospitals are bureaucratic to a degree. But it is argued that State control would be a strange remedy, and furthermore that if there was no other reason against State control this fact of bureaucratic methods should clinch the case against the State meddling with the voluntary hospitals. That if some hospitals are a little bureaucratic, under State control they would all be entirely bureaucratic. No one can tell to what kind of tyrannical conditions people would have to submit to obtain treatment.

Does an old-age pensioner, whose treatment in a workhouse hospital is paid for by relatives, lose his rights as a citizen, and consequently his State pension? asks the *Daily Chronicle*.

This question has come before the Barnet Guardians, who have answered it in the affirmative, and have been supported in their attitude by the Ministry of Health.

In the Wellhouse Hospital, at Barnet, the Guardians set apart a ward for paying patients, who are received at a minimum fee of two guineas a week.

Among the patients recently admitted was an old-age pensioner from New Barnet, for whose treatment relatives regularly paid the weekly fee.

The patient remained in hospital over three months, whereupon the local Pensions Committee stopped his pension on the ground that he had received treatment in a Poor-law institution.

Against this decision the patient appealed to the Ministry of Health, claiming that, as the cost of his maintenance in hospital had been fully defrayed privately, he could not be classed as a pauper, and therefore had not sacrificed any of his rights as a citizen.

At a recent meeting of the Pensions Committee a letter was read from the Ministry of Health upholding the action of the committee, and stating that the patient had become disqualified for receipt of a pension by receipt of Poor-law relief.

The guardians are to be pressed to take up the matter with the Ministry.

The Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers, established and hitherto managed by the British Red Cross Society, has been constituted an independent charity under a scheme prepared by the Charity Commissioners. Under its new constitution the charity will be administered by a body of governors comprising the former members of the committee, with Sir Arthur Stanley as chairman and Sir William H. Bennett as vice-chairman. The appointment of additional governors is vested in the British Red Cross Society.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)