

MEDALS FOR NURSES.

The Duchess of Northumberland last week attended the Poor Law Institution, North Shields, and presented the "Frater," "Grant," and "Pearson" medals and certificates to the probationer nurses, who have completed their training at that Institution. There was a large attendance in the recreation room of the Institution, to witness the ceremony.

Mrs. Frater (Chairman of the Hospital Committee) presided.

In extending a welcome to her Grace, the Chairman said the Institution had a splendid band of workers. The Guardians were proud of their Training School. Eleven probationers who had sat for the examination had had a very efficient tutelage from Dr. Williamson (Medical Officer), Mrs. Croucher (Matron), and Miss Collins. Nine out of the eleven had been successful in the examination.

Mrs. Croucher explained to the Duchess the distinction attached to each medal.

MEDAL WINNERS.

The following received medals and certificates: Nurse Burdon (Frater Gold Medal and two certificates); Nurse Richardson (Grant silver medal and two certificates); Nurse Florence Smith (Pearson bronze medal and two certificates); Nurses Bates, Frost, Gibb, Batty, Kell, and Peacock, two certificates each, and Nurses McPherson, Scott, and Curry, one certificate each. In the case where two certificates were awarded these were for general training and invalid cookery and the single award was for invalid cookery.

The Duchess made a very appreciative little address to the nurses, and congratulated them on their successes in the examinations.

THE PASSING BELL.

It is with deep regret that we record the sudden death on November 6th of Miss Agnes Sawyer—known to a large number of Leicester nurses as "Sister Agnes." Miss Sawyer went to bed well and in good spirits on Sunday evening, and when the friend with whom she was living at Margate called her in the morning she discovered she had passed away—apparently during sleep.

Miss Sawyer was the niece of Miss G. A. Rogers, the former Matron of the Leicester Royal Infirmary. She was trained at Leicester, and subsequently became Sister of the Men's Accident Ward, and later held the post of Home Sister. In the autumn of 1914 she went to France as a Member of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, and was there until the end of the war.

In the winter of 1920 she was at Lemnos nursing the refugees under the Russian Red Cross.

Miss Sawyer was a woman of wide experience and many gifts. As a ward sister she had an excellent knowledge of accident work, and a happy way in the management of men patients. She was moreover a skilled masseuse; a good linguist, speaking both French and German well; an exquisite needlewoman; and had a true, artistic sense. She was always good company, cheerful and full of life, and a most delightful holiday companion, and some of the holidays spent in her company will linger long in the memories of those who were privileged to share them.

Sister Agnes was laid to rest in the cemetery at Margate on Thursday, November 9th. On the coffin was a beautiful cross of white chrysanthemums and red carnations sent from the Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League.—*R.I.P.*

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

At the autumn Council meeting held, by kind permission of Mrs. Eeles, at 43, Grosvenor Road, Westminster, on November 4th, Miss Rimmer, the Hon. Organising Secretary, received a warm welcome back on her return from abroad, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Lord for superintending the office during the last few months since the retirement of Miss Nicholls. Great interest was taken in the list of Independent Candidates for the General Nursing Council, and the President, Miss Pearse, pointed out what a debt of gratitude we owe to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and her valued co-operators in the fight they had made for the self-government of the profession. The Hon. Secretary, in her report, pointed out that of the 11 independent candidates no less than five are active members of the National Union of Trained Nurses and two are ex-presidents. The President, who is standing for election as a past Matron—being disqualified from representing Public Health because she is a past Metropolitan Matron—emphasised that the ballot is secret and that all registered nurses should be urged to use their vote. The result of the election will decide the fate of the profession for the next five years.

It was decided to ask the Hon. Organising Secretary personally to represent the N.U.T.N. at the Law Courts at the hearing of the St. Thomas' Hospital Appeal re Unemployment Insurance and the status of staff nurses.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The American Tea, for which Mrs. Northwood so kindly lent her house on October 28th, was a great success. The daintily furnished tea tables in the dining room were much appreciated, and in the lounge an informal concert was held. The audience was most appreciative of the songs and recitations which several ladies and gentlemen so kindly contributed and, emulating the example of Oliver, constantly demanded "more."

The thanks of the Union are due both to Mrs. Northwood for her kindness in lending her house, and also to the many distinguished artistes who gave of their time and talents.

It was felt that one of the greatest compliments came from a nurse, who said, "It wasn't the least bit like a nursing affair; you could almost imagine that nurses had nothing to do with it!"

An organ, given by Sir William and Lady Thomas, for the chapel at King Edward VII Hospital, Cardiff, was dedicated last week. Lady Thomas was formerly Assistant Matron of the institution. Choir stalls, the gift of Sir Harry and Lady Webb, also were dedicated.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)