

Also steps were taken to organise a Graduate Nurses' Association among the Koreans.' "

Let us hope the latter organisation will be ready to affiliate (as the Nurses of China have done) with the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors in 1925.

There is still a great shortage of suitable candidates for training in many hospitals and infirmaries, although we are glad to hear that the prospect of a defined curriculum and a State Examination is beginning to have a good effect. One Matron writes us:—"I note a distinct improvement in the standard of education amongst candidates for training, and all seem to look forward to the State Examination and one portal to the Register. What a blessing the term of grace will soon terminate, and the ignorant folly of this polyglot Nursing Council will cease to have the power to play ducks and drakes with our professional Register. My Board is most anxious to adopt the Syllabus, and many of the Guardians resent the accusation that they are responsible for the reactionary conduct of our affairs by the Ministry of Health, and what Miss Nightingale used to term the 'fashionable asses'!"

In adopting a report of the Special Expenditure Committee the Paddington Guardians state under heading "Nursing Staff":—

"The amount expended on salaries of the Hospital staff during the period we have had under review appeared to be high, but this was due to the fact that difficulty had been experienced in obtaining the full number of Probationer Nurses, which necessitated the engagement of temporary Nurses, Male Nurses, and Ward Attendants at considerably higher remuneration. It was contemplated that this temporary staff would be dispensed with when sufficient Probationers were available. It is now, however, suggested that it will be necessary to retain some portion of this staff as part of the regular establishment. This must receive careful attention, as the financial position was based on the supposition of these officers not being required, and any alteration in this respect will involve considerably increased expenditure with regard to the Hospital staff."

In a report to the Steyning Guardians, says the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, the Special

Committee appointed to consider the question of making arrangements for Probationer Nurses to receive training in surgical work in order that they might be enabled to qualify for State registration by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, stated that arrangements had been made for the Probationers (not exceeding six per year) to receive training in surgical work during their third year of training at the Kensington Poor Law Infirmary. The salary of Probationers in future, it was recommended, should be £25 (first year), £30 (second year), £35 (third year), £40 (fourth year). Under the foregoing arrangement the General Nursing Council for England and Wales will be prepared to recognise the Steyning Poor Law Infirmary as an affiliated training school for Nurses. The Board approved the report.

At the Annual Court of Governors of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. R. Redhead made a statement on the proposal that the nursing staff's working day should be reduced to one of eight hours. Such a proposal, he said, would involve a total additional expenditure of £2,988, and whilst the Nursing Committee were in sympathy with the proposal, they could not see how the project could be carried out in view of the additional cost entailed, and the present and immediate future of the infirmary's financial resources.

Mr. Redhead emphasised that the Committee appreciated the hazardous and difficult nature of the nurses' vocation, were sympathetic towards the desire for shorter working hours, and would meet the need to the best of their ability.

In reply to criticism from the body of the hall, Mr. A. Lawson, vice-chairman of the Nursing Committee, said if those present would pledge themselves to raise the additional £3,000 required there would be no difficulties in putting an eight-hour day into operation.

A workman Governor, declaring that they were believers in a seven-hour day for a pit pony, moved for the sending back the report for further consideration of the eight-hour day.

In reply to an inquiry by Mr. John Cairns, Mr. Redhead said the nurses' hours had been reduced from an average of 70 hours per week to an average of 62.

Mr. S. Coulthard said the nurses agreed to accept the position.

Ultimately the Nursing Committee's decision on the matter was approved.

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