

nity wards by the provision of more nurses, the mixing of different classes of mothers being undesirable.

The Guardians state that there are two maternity wards at the Infirmary, each containing ten beds and ten cots, but only one ward is occupied at a time. The staff consists of one midwife, and three midwifery pupils, who are fully trained nurses taking their midwifery training, also one resident ward maid and one daily cleaner. In a rate-supported institution the Guardians say it is difficult to differentiate between classes.

The Matron reports that the patients in the maternity wards have always been of good behaviour and amenable to discipline. Every precaution is taken against infection.

We think it very desirable that there should be a division of wards, and that respectable married women may reasonably object to occupying beds in wards with a class of patients who gravitate to an infirmary. The question of the probability of infection is a most important one, though we do not doubt every precaution to avoid infection is taken. Nevertheless, uninfected mothers should not be subjected to the risk of infection of a most terrible and loathsome kind.

The deputation also urged that smaller wards and more nurses should be provided for the children, and contended that the Infirmary is understaffed, and the patients left without proper comfort and care. This the Guardians do not admit, and say that complaints are carefully investigated, and they are satisfied the patients are not left without proper care.

A letter read at the same meeting of the Guardians from the Kensington Council of Social Service urged upon them the question of the discharge of patients from the Infirmary, as they consider it one that calls for some alteration. They understand that when the disease from which a patient suffers becomes chronic they must either discharge him to his home or into the Institution. Instances arise where it is a real hardship for the patient to be obliged to enter the Institution. Many a person who is of superior class, and quite above what is understood by "Poor Law level," is forced to seek Infirmary aid, and the above Council regard it as a real hardship—indeed, an injustice—that when he is pronounced chronic he must be removed from the Infirmary and become a pauper. They pleaded for a chronic ward for men, and a similar one for women, to be included in the Infirmary.

The Guardians referred this most important letter to Committee for consideration.

IN MEMORY OF RAHERE.

On Wednesday morning, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, accompanied by Miss M. Breay and Miss Georgina Macvitie, conveyed a chaplet of palms, tied with black and white ribbon, to the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, and placed it at the tomb of Rahere. To the chaplet was attached the following inscription:—

IN EVER GLORIOUS MEMORY OF
RAHERE,

FOUNDER OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL,
CANON REGULAR OF THE AUGUSTINIAN ORDER,
BRETHREN AND SISTERS OF WHICH NURSED THE HOSPITAL
FROM ITS FOUNDATION IN 1123 UNTIL ITS
DISSOLUTION AS A RELIGIOUS HOUSE.

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED
NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.
NIHIL HABENTES, OMNIA POSSEIDENTES.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Agenda, in full, will be found amongst advertisements, on the back cover.

The Meeting promises to be one of great interest, as it will be the first time the members have met together since the Nurses' Registration Acts were in force, and their aspirations realised. Nursing is now a Profession—to what proficiency it attains will depend upon the integrity of Registered Nurses. Any way, we stand on the firm basis of legal status; and let us hope we shall stand shoulder to shoulder and claim the privileges we have worked and paid for, both for the benefit of the community and for the prestige of our Profession.

Before the opening of the Business Meeting of the Council, a copy of the first Statutory Register of Nurses, specially bound, including an inscribed Address, will be presented to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick by some of her old friends closely associated with her in her life's work for the State Registration of Nurses—a gift which will no doubt be greatly valued by her and become a valued heirloom in her family.

The business to be transacted at the Meeting will touch on National and International Nursing affairs, so it is to be hoped there will be a good attendance. The Old Guard has a duty to the younger generation of Nurses. It must inspire it with the altruistic and indomitable spirit which has overcome almost insurmountable difficulties. And the new generation owes a duty to the Old Guard in proving its gratitude for the extraordinary devotion to its interests in the past, by safeguarding the privileges won for it by self-sacrifice it will never be called upon to endure.

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