

mittance be enclosed when the tickets are applied for.

On previous occasions this Annual Dinner has enabled members on the staff to meet and renew old friendships formed during the terrible years of war.

The Leicester Board of Guardians have finally decided that the new Nurses' Home at the North Evington Infirmary is to be proceeded with.

"The Future of the Infirmary in Urban Unions" was under discussion at the South Midland Poor Law Conference at Oxford last week, where Mrs. Eustace H. Lipscomb, Vice-Chairman of the St. Albans Board of Guardians, said the important and pressing question was "How are we to get the right kind of nurse in our rural district Infirmaries?" Or, in other words, "How can we make the work of nursing at our Infirmaries of sufficient interest to attract the right class of women as nurses? What are they requiring?" As reported in the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, Mrs. Lipscomb continued: "As far as one can judge, the best type of nurse is seeking to be fully qualified; by her training, in order to be placed on the State Register, and be able to compete for work and livelihood with her sister-nurses who are trained in London and provincial hospitals. In the larger Infirmary this is easily possible, for there the nursing is carried to a very high pitch of perfection, and the theoretical and practical medical and surgical work equal to that taught in the best type of hospital. It is a very different thing in the small rural Infirmary. We start with a very high ideal, namely, the proviso that *all* sickness wants nursing with a skilled and practised hand; that lack of knowledge, even in the simplest case, may lead to untold suffering; that we never say that this or that case does not need experienced nursing, as we never know what complications may occur in the most apparently simple case. We must have the best nurses.

"As things are, the work in Rural District Unions tends to become dull and monotonous, and, worse than that, leads to nothing—no certificates, no advancement. Nursing schools may, according to a friend of mine, be divided into: (1) Preliminary and minor schools with no resident medical officer; (2) second-class schools, which, though good at medical training, lack material on the surgical side; (3) schools complete in themselves. The first and second class can quite well be helped if co-operation could be arranged between them and

(a) small surgical hospitals, (b) cottage hospitals of not less than twenty beds, (c) the local general voluntary hospital. To either of these the rural Infirmary nurses might be sent after they have worked eighteen months or more at their first school.

"How is all this machinery to be set up and got moving? The idea is to get a number of efficient and well-selected men and women to travel through the country collecting statistics of all the existing hospitals, both voluntary and State-aided, and the mass of statistics thus collected should be dealt with by a Commission, and from them a scheme of co-operation drawn up. They should at the same time see that there are efficient teachers, or 'sister-tutors' as they are called nowadays, travelling from one hospital to another; or rather, as was suggested, making a teaching centre in each town, at which the nurses from all institutions in that town may attend to get their theory up to the required standard. Finally, the Infirmarys must be absolutely independent of the rest of the Institution."

We are glad to note that Mrs. Lipscomb makes the suggestion that statistics should be collected after expert personal inspection, and a scheme of co-operation drawn up. This work is the duty of the General Nursing Council, and should have been taken in hand, as we suggested, nearly two years ago; but this verbose and feeble Council, apparently afraid of its own shadow, is merely trifling with the practical organisation of nursing education and administration, and little will be done, we fear, for the better teaching of nurses and the care of the sick in Urban Unions—or elsewhere—so long as we are at the mercy of its reactionary personnel.

Lady Reid, of Tigh-na-Geald, Aboyne, gave a garden party to representatives of the nursing profession from all parts of the Highland Division of the Nursing Service to meet Dame Maud M'Carthy, D.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of the Nursing Service of the Territorial Army. Among those present were Miss Edmondson, R.R.C., Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Principal Matron, Highland Division; Miss Susan M'Intosh, R.R.C., Royal Infirmary, Dundee; Miss Ann Sutherland, Northern Infirmary, Inverness; Miss Sinclair, R.R.C., Miss Craig, R.R.C., and Miss Ross, Matrons of the Territorial Army, Highland Division; Miss Leslie Scott, Central Nursing Home, Aberdeen.

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