

more than thirty years after pioneer nurses began to organise in various directions for the uplift of their profession, aim at gaining respect on its own merits, and cease to claim credit for the creative and practical work of those its founders so strenuously opposed.

At a recent meeting of the Edmonton Guardians, a recommendation from the Finance Committee was considered that the Board should subscribe £15 to the Hospital Library, and £12 to the Edmonton House Library for the year.

In the discussion which ensued, Mr. Graham, who opposed, argued that public libraries existed at Tottenham and Edmonton where the staff could obtain books, and officers had plenty of time off and opportunities to get them. He wondered how many employers in those localities subscribed to Mudie's Library on behalf of employees who were not half as well paid as the Guardians' staff.

Mr. Burns considered that the Guardians should look closely into their finances, as they were getting short of money.

Mr. Metivier supported, saying that their staff was largely composed of young women, probationer nurses who, when off duty, did not want to go out but to sit on the lawn. From Mudie's they could get expensive books which girls studying would want.

Mrs. Beveridge said she was going to put a little bit of common sense into the heads of the Guardians. What would they say if, after being on their legs for eight or nine hours, they were told to go for a walk. The nurses had not got motor-cars.

Eventually it was decided to continue the present subscription for three months, during which time the Finance Committee were instructed to go into the question.

May we suggest to the Finance Committee that they keep distinct the questions of a library of professional books and one for light literature. There is no reason to supply a nursing staff in receipt of good salaries with works of fiction when, with a little organisation, they can establish and maintain a library, including daily and weekly papers, of their own. For the purpose of professional study a carefully selected standing library of nursing classics should be available in the institution, and if the Guardians desire to subscribe to a circulating library of professional books, we commend to their attention that of Messrs. H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., 136, Gower Street, W.C.1, who specialise in this line.

An Egyptian patient at the Caterham Mental hospital, who was evidently a homicidal maniac, was last week charged at Canterbury with committing a murderous assault on another patient. The evidence was plain, and the Medical Superintendent of the institution said that the accused had made many unprovoked attempts on other people, and the institution was not suitable for his detention. No doubt this is so, but it strikes trained nurses as a proceeding entirely at variance with modern ideals that this poor insane man should have to go through the strain of a trial at the Quarter Sessions, to which he was committed, before he can be transferred to a suitable environment. If that is necessary under our Lunacy Laws it is time they were amended.

For a long time past great inconvenience has been experienced at the Nottingham City Mental Hospital through the want of adequate accommodation for the female nursing staff.

The Asylum Visiting Committee experience great difficulty in retaining the services of the female nursing staff for any great length of time, owing to the want of proper accommodation, and this difficulty is becoming more acute in view of the fact that other institutions up and down the country have either provided or are providing proper nurses' homes for the comfort and welfare of their female nursing staff. The committee feel that the provision of a proper nurses' home at the Nottingham City Mental Hospital cannot be delayed much longer without prejudicial results to the institution.

The committee have therefore instructed the city engineer to prepare plans and estimate in accordance with the suggestions and recommendations made by the Board of Control. The building will provide accommodation for 57 nurses, and will contain rooms for a matron, two assistant matrons, one night sister, one home sister, recreation room, study room, sick room, &c. It will be provided with a flat roof to allow for the erection of an additional storey at some future time. The city engineer estimates the cost of the proposed nurses' home (exclusive of furniture, the major portion of which already exists) at £14,000.

We congratulate the Committee, and hope when the Home is ready it will be filled by nurses and probationers making mental nursing their life's work, and thus aiding the decrease of insanity in its most hopeless and grievous form. The Mental Hospital Matrons' Association will be able to help on this good work enormously in the future.

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