

panion through convalescence with her patient, and had far less wear and tear than under new conditions. The patients paid their fees most regularly, and it was quite an exception to name a defaulter. Now that fees are from 3½ to 4 guineas, the nurse is often sent for at the last moment and kept for as short a period as possible. People in hotels and flats are often compelled to have a nurse, and our experience is that they think little of going away and leaving the fee unpaid for weeks, and some disappear, leaving no address. We know of several such cases where rich and titled relations have paid the fees, and others where they refuse to help, even with the address of the defaulters. The Law Courts, apparently, are on the side of employers, as, even if a judgment is given in the nurse's favour, she has no power of compelling people to pay. If things go from bad to worse nurses will be compelled to subsidise a Nurses' Protection Society—as medical practitioners do—through which to recover fees. It is a sad condition of affairs, and proves the gradual depreciation of honourable dealing amongst the general public. It is very necessary to see that fees are paid regularly, especially in Nurses' Co-operations, as otherwise there is no commission with which to conduct their business.

The second matter of nurses working on a co-operative system resigning, and taking patients on their own account, is very dishonest, as it deprives a Society of the part of the income upon which the whole staff rely to pay their initial expenses of management. We fear the only remedy is to insert a clause in the agreement making the nurse who "lifts" cases responsible for paying the p.c. as long as she remains with the case. So few nurses know anything of business that some do not realise they are not acting honourably in providing for themselves at the expense of their colleagues.

At a recent meeting of the Durham Guardians a letter was read from the clerk to the Visiting Committee of Sedgfield Asylum repudiating the allegation that the asylum nurses were performing 14 hours' duty per day.

The letter set forth that the hours of duty did not exceed 11½ hours in any day, or 55½ hours per week, or an hour less than had been agreed to by the National Asylum Workers' Union.

It was further pointed out that the nurses had two days off duty each week and 21 days' annual leave—in all, 125 days per annum.

In the opinion of the Committee there was no justification for the Guardians' suggestion

that owing to the hours of duty the nurses were not in a fit condition to give proper attention to the patients.

The new Home of the Newcastle and District Nursing Association in Barracks Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was opened recently. There was a large representation of the committee of the association, and of its many friends, and interest in the Home was shown for hours after the official proceedings had concluded. An American tea was conducted from three o'clock until six, and during that time the Home was available for inspection. Inside the hall, at the foot of the stairs, a notice was displayed giving a concise history of the Association. "The Newcastle and District Nursing Association," it ran, "was inaugurated in the year 1912, when Mr. R. C. Trigger was Mayor and Miss Trigger Mayoress. Since its inauguration the association has continuously received the whole-hearted support of the Newcastle people. The purchasing and the furnishing of this Home in 1923 was largely due to Mr. Trigger's instrumentality and generosity."

Mr. Trigger is the Association's President, and from the time of the Association's formation down to the present he has always taken the liveliest interest in its welfare. His sister, Miss Trigger, as long as she lived, shared this interest, and, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, devoted herself with the utmost zeal to the Association's progress. It was the remembrance of this fact that led Mr. Trigger to take steps to realise the ambition long cherished by the hon. secretary of the Association, Mrs. C. J. Pratt, and the committee, to possess a Home of their own, and now, thanks to his liberality, it exists as a beautiful memorial to Miss Trigger. The Home is not large, but it is of convenient and comfortable dimensions, and it is furnished and upholstered in the most hygienic and cosy way, so as to make it an ideal residence for the Association's two nurses—Nurse Chilton and Nurse Ibbott. Both nurses are qualified under the regulations of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute. The work of the Institute can be appreciated by the following extract from last year's annual report—the tenth:—"Medical cases, 210; surgical cases, 83; operations, 20; general nursing visits, 6,575; casual visits, 429; infant health visits, 243."

The President handed the key of the front door to Mrs. Pratt for transmission to the nurses. He hoped the nurses would always find there a happy home.

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