

prepared, and had been approved by the donor, for providing the nurses with a greatly improved dining-room, also a recreation-room, lecture-room, and sickroom accommodation. He mentioned that the sum given was £10,000, which was a noble contribution. The work was already in hand, and he hoped they would be able by another year or so to have that valuable addition. He only wished they knew the donor so that they could thank him or her for the kind benefaction.

Training in the nursing of "incurables" should be included in the training of every probationer. It requires all the finest qualities which go to make the best nurses.

Mr. William Paul, a public-spirited citizen of Ipswich, has purchased No. 9, Lower Brook Street, adjoining the present Ipswich Nurses' Home, for the benefit of the Home. By the terms of the trust deed which has been drawn up, the Home will have the full use of the premises so long as it continues its present work, and in the event of the Ipswich Nurses' Home ceasing to exist, the property will be used for the purposes of the town.

We have received piles of cuttings *re* the Nurses' Registration Bill, again squandered in Victoria. One factor in its loss is the everlasting interference of sectional nurse employers with its provisions, who merely look at the question from the economic view-point of their own convenience. Thus special concessions were required by the managers of the Victorian Bush Nurses' Association. Now, however, that Bush Nurses are being recruited in England it is well to put on record how all-important this branch of nursing is, and the following letter from Miss Alice M. Moore, a Bush Nurse by experience, is valuable:—

"With reference to the Chief Secretary's suggestion that a certificate might be granted to bush nurses who take a modified course of training, I should like to point out why, in my opinion, this would not work well. I have had many years' experience as a bush nurse in Victoria and New South Wales, also in city and country hospitals in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, and I say without hesitation that the position of the bush nurse is the most difficult of all. She has to work usually without the help of a doctor, and often far away from a hospital. She is called to cases of broken limbs, cuts, burns, poisoning, and illness of all kinds. Singlehanded she has to do her best for these, and must understand how to use the contents of the medicine cupboard with which she is equipped—sometimes the only one within a range

of fifty miles. Many of the patients are children, whose illnesses are not included in the general training given to nurses. Midwifery is a class in itself, and is all important. In this, as in other cases, the bush nurse must be able to recognise danger signals in time to bring the patient by some means within range of skilled medical or surgical attention.

"Whatever may be advisable in other departments of nursing, the bush nurse certainly should not be granted a certificate on partial training. To do this would be to add one more disability to life in the country districts. Just as there are schools and post offices scattered throughout the bush, so there should be nursing centres, worked in the same way as a Government department. Nurses with full all-round qualifications, who alone are suitable for this work, can be obtained if they are properly paid, and such expenditure would be an excellent national investment."

We are heartily in sympathy with Miss Alice Moore's views, and do hope Sir James Barrett and his sister, Dr. Edith Barrett, will not continue to try to foist an inferior grade of cheap nurse attendants on to bush people. Bush nursing requires nurses of outstanding qualities, of a missionary and adventurous spirit, and, like our own rural poor, the bush people have no need of the semi-trained nurse. The everlasting interference of the laity in nursing standards and status is ruining trained nursing in Australia, as it soon will at home.

At the final examination at Kingston General Hospital, Surrey, Miss A. Barry, who gained first place, scored the highest marks ever awarded in that examination. At the presentation of certificates and medals, Mr. H. Broome congratulated Miss Barry on establishing a record of 91 per cent. in a remarkably stiff examination.

The Third Annual Reunion of the Royal Infirmary Glasgow Nurses took place at the Trades House, Glasgow, on Friday, December 7th, and was very successful and enjoyable. The Chair at the dinner was taken by James Macfarlane, Esq., D.L., LL.D., supported on either side by Miss Donaldson and Mrs. Strong. We hope to give a full report in our next issue. The second number of the *Nurses' League Journal*—a delightfully produced and edited publication, with a portrait of Mrs. Strong as frontispiece and also a portrait of Miss Melrose—shows that the League (which is affiliated to the National Council of Trained Nurses) is a flourishing and progressive self-governing association of nurses, animated by high professional ideals.

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