

Here are two items from the *Isleworth Nurses' League Journal* :—

"A new probationer, on duty in a ward for the first time, was sent by the Sister to get a shroud from the linen room. After a prolonged absence, she came back and solemnly informed the Sister that 'she was sorry, but no shrouds had been returned from the laundry.'"

We imagine a probationer was also responsible for the statement that: "The circulation of the blood was invented by Martin Harvey."

At the recent opening of the new Out-patient Department at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, South Wales, by Lord Tredegar, President of the Hospital, Sir Garrod Thomas, D.L., Chairman of Directors, who presided, craved permission to deal with a side branch of the work of the Hospital, namely, that of their Training School for Nurses. He explained that up to the present, every hospital in England and Wales that was a training school had given its own certificate. These certificates had differed somewhat in value—differed according to the training and the stiffness of the examinations, but, in 1919, the then Minister of Health introduced a Bill, and there was passed the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919. In future, if a girl wanted her name on the State Register as a nurse, it would be necessary for her to pass the State examination. It was what might be called the one portal system.

For the purpose of bringing it about, the Minister instituted a General Nursing Council to regulate the course of training, Syllabus of examinations, and Rules for carrying out the examinations, which began in July. In order to give their nurses a fair chance, they had added a Sister Tutor to the staff. To ensure good results, girls had to be well educated and keen in their work. Examiners were appointed from throughout the kingdom, and their own Matron (Miss L. Forster Feather) was among the number. She was, of course, detailed for another centre when members of her own staff were undergoing the test. The Royal Gwent sent in 10 candidates, and he was proud to be able to say that no fewer than 9 passed the examination. He had not the complete figures before him, but he was prepared to claim that that was the highest number of passes in any school in Wales or Monmouthshire. He extended the heartiest congratulations to the Matron, the Sisters—particularly the Sister Tutor—and to the hon. medical staff, who all helped in some way towards the achievement of that fine result. The Royal Gwent, in addition to caring for and tending the patients in the Hospital, was also doing a valuable public service in training nurses for their humane tasks.

Heartly congratulations to Miss Margaret Lyon, whose home is at Dundee, and was educated at the Dudhope Public School. Miss Lyon went to Canada three years ago, and entered the Ontario Hospital, Cobourg, Ontario, for training. She has recently received her diploma, and was awarded the Provincial Secretary's Department Prize for the Nurse attaining the highest standard in the province of Ontario. She proposes to accept an appointment in a Boston hospital.

At the Monthly Meeting of the Committee of Management of the Omagh District Asylum, when the Earl of

Belmore, vice-chairman, presided, Dr. Patrick, Resident Medical Superintendent, in his annual Report for 1923, stated that classes were still held to enable nurses to obtain the Certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association. During the year twelve nurses and five attendants obtained this qualification. It was a cause of regret that keener interest in attending the classes, &c., was not manifested by the junior members of the staff.

Considerable discussion took place as to what action should be taken regarding the members of the staff who failed to pass the preliminary examination.

Dr. Patrick stated that twelve members of the staff had failed to pass this examination. Some of these persons had been up three times, and some side-stepped two or three besides that. At the last examination there were only two successes, and this time there were only four. These people did not intend to work for the examination, because they did not think it would make any difference in the security of their positions.

In reply to a question, Dr. Patrick stated that four of the men had been in the service of the Asylum since 1919, and others had only been up once, two girls had been up twice, and three girls three times. Several others had been up three or four times. What was done elsewhere was to reduce their pay, employ them as temporary attendants, and they came in at the lowest rate of wages. These people got an increase of £6 a year, and they were getting that for nothing.

He said, further, that there were two examinations, a junior and a senior; the junior was a stiff examination, but the senior was very much easier. At the same time, if you did not know your work, every examination was stiff, and if you did not intend to do your work, it was stiffer still.

It was costing the Committee £1 a year to put these persons in for this examination, and they would not attend classes.

Eventually it was agreed to give those who had the full increments twelve months' grace, and then, if they did not pass, to cut them down.

By that time, we hope that the staff of this institution will have realised the value of admission to the State Register of Nurses, and will take pains to obtain the necessary qualification.

The "Association d'Hygiene Sociale de l'Aisne," Soissons, an old friend (the Comité Americain pour les Régions Dévastées), is carrying on its most useful work under a new name, which, we hope, implies that the devastation of these regions is now more or less a memory, as, owing to the industry and tenacity of its inhabitants, it promised to be.

From the most interesting *Bulletin* of the Association we learn that it has been able to obtain many more places, both in the country and at the seaside, for the children during their vacations, and the requests made by the nurses for more vacancies would astonish you, all of them insisting that their child needs it more than anybody else's. If you like to look at the map of France, and find the places mentioned, you can picture for yourself little boys of the devastated regions in the inevitable black apron, and little girls who have made every effort to make themselves look *chic*, and you can feel glad that you have had a part in their happiness,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)