

## THE NIGHTINGALE TRAINING SCHOOL, ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

### THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.

The Report of the Nightingale Fund for 1923, recently issued, shows that there were remaining in the School on December 25th, 68 Probationer-Nurses, of whom 12 were paying Probationers, and 7 Free Specials. 78 Probationers were admitted up to December 25th from the Preliminary Training School, of whom 16 were paying Probationers, and 7 Free Specials, making a total of 146. Of these 10 resigned, or were discharged as unsuitable, 52 completed the probationary year and were taken on as Extra Nurses to complete their training. On December 25th, 1923, there were remaining in the Home 84 Probationers, of whom 18 were paying Probationers, and 8 Free Specials, and 37 completed their term of service during the year, and were awarded Certificates.

The question as to the regulations under which candidates in future should enter the Training School and obtain the Hospital Certificate, in view of the fact that, as from the year 1925, every probationer who has received three years' training and passed the State Examination, has not yet been settled, but it is under consideration whether the granting of the Hospital Certificate should be made conditional on the gaining of the State Certificate.

In default of sufficient candidates, the Committee found themselves able only to nominate one Scholar for the Scholarships at King's College for Women Household and Social Science Department in 1923, but are again offering two Scholarships in the current year.

In accordance with custom extracts from the Report to the Council of the Matron are given.

### A NEW DEPARTURE.

(Communicated.)

Since the time of the foundation of the School the scope of Nursing has widened in many directions, and daily it becomes more evident that *prevention* is as important as—if it be not more important than—the *curing* of disease.

Confident that Miss Nightingale would herself have been the first to recognise this, it has been the constant endeavour of the Nightingale Fund Committee to widen the application of the Fund. Some years since, Scholarships were instituted which provide a further theoretical training, especially in matters concerning Public Health, at King's College. These have been eminently successful.

It is now felt that if the training of Nurses is to be carried out with the view of its application to the wider aspects of Nursing—what one may call "Public Health Work," we must not only know the needs of our own land and to what extent they are now met, but we should also know how the problem is being dealt with by our kinsmen in other lands.

This consideration has led the Nightingale Fund Committee to establish (as an experiment) a Traveller Fellowship, the holder of which is to visit the United States and Canada to examine and enquire into Nursing, especially in relation to Public Health, and to report. We shall thus learn what is being done to meet problems which are the same in all lands, and learning, we shall be able to adopt whatever may be found better than here.

Miss Olive Baggallay has been appointed Nightingale Travelling Fellow. Trained in the Nightingale Training School, St. Thomas's Hospital, she gained a Nightingale Scholarship for Post-Graduate work at King's College for Women, University of London. Experienced in practical nursing, both in Hospital and on the District, she later devoted herself to the Public Health side, and is now working under the Battersea Borough Council, which has generously consented to allow her a year's leave to enable her to take up this new work.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### THE OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND.

Of the many activities of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England none is probably of greater value and interest than the Ophthalmic Hospital which it maintains in Jerusalem, of which, by the courtesy of the Hon. Secretary, Lt.-Col. J. T. Woolrych Perowne, we are able to publish the accompanying illustration.

The need for the hospital, and its increasing usefulness, is shown by the comparative table of hospital statistics published in the report for 1923. Thus in 1920 the in-patients numbered 1,248, new out-patients 8,898, total consultations 26,001, operations 2,538. In 1923 the in-patients were 1,524, new out-patients 14,777, total consultations 60,947, and operations 4,169.

Classified according to religion, of the new cases seen, 8,786 were Moslems (including 23 Druse), 3,082 were Christians, 2,919 were Jews. Of the total consultations 35,631 (including 73 Druse) were Moslems, 11,557 were Christians, 13,759 were Jews.

The Warden reports that "as in former years the bulk of the patients attending were suffering from one or both of the two prevalent eye diseases of the East, Trachoma and acute conjunctivitis, including the complications and sequelæ of these diseases. Acute conjunctivitis or Ophthalmia occurs as a seasonal epidemic during the hot dry summer. It is usually a rapid and often disastrous affection, being responsible for quite two-thirds of the blindness in Palestine. In 1923 the epidemic was milder than usual, representing 11.5 per cent. of the new cases as compared with an average of 15 per cent. for the past four years. On the other hand, ulceration of the cornea resulting in impairment or loss of sight, was a complication in 31 per cent. of the cases as compared with an average of 27 per cent.

"Trachoma or Granular Ophthalmia still remains as one—if not the chief—of the scourges of Palestine. It is a slow insidious disease of the eyelids generally acquired in early life, and although a comparatively infrequent cause of actual blindness often ends in grave impairment of vision. Further, by giving rise to Trichiasis (or incurvation of the eyelashes) it is responsible for much misery and disability. In 1923, the incidence of Trachoma was 82 per cent. of the new cases as compared with an average of slightly over 90 per cent. for the past four years. Naturally the incidence rate in the population of Palestine is considerably less than that of patients seeking relief at an eye hospital, but as an index of the cultural level of the people the Trachoma rate is still deplorably high."

Three years ago it was decided that "all the paid staff of the hospital who are Christians will in future be members of the Order, admitted thereto as Serving Brothers and Serving Sisters, but ceasing to be such on leaving the staff, and again that the Superintendent of the Hospital is to be called Warden, the second surgeon Sub-Warden, and a third title is Registrar." This change in the status of the staff was made the occasion of a public ceremony in the Hospital on June 26th, 1922, when Lieut.-Colonel J. T. Woolrych Perowne, a Knight of Grace and Hon. Secretary of the Hospital Committee, acting under commission from His Royal Highness the Grand Prior (the Duke of Connaught, K.G.), first admitted the British staff as Serving Brothers and Sisters, and two of the Syrian staff as Honorary of that grade, and then proceeded to invest the Warden and Sub-Warden with the insignia, mantle and cap of their newly-created offices." The ceremony was held in the new out-patient dispensary, and in the absence of the High Commissioner in England the Acting High Commissioner (Lieut.-Colonel Sir Wyndham Deedes, C.M.G., D.S.O.), was present in the place of honour. There were also present the Orthodox Patriarch, the Anglican Bishop, representatives

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