

The programme, in addition to the names of the Prize-winners, gives the list of Sisters and Nurses who received their Midwifery Training during 1923, the Gold Medallists for each year since 1918, the Silver Medallist qualifying for the Gold Medal, and all the Examination Lists for 1923—Diploma in Nursing (University of Leeds) Class Examinations, and the Pass List of Pupil Probationers in the Training School, the Nurses' Committee, and the Lecturers and Examiners for 1923. It emphasises, in short, the educational character of the Training School.

It is always a special pleasure to us to see the good work of nurses recognised by the award of a Gold Medal, as we believe that the first Gold Medal for nurses was the one awarded by the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, upon our suggestion in 1884.

CHIVALROUS COURTESY TO THE WEAK AND SUFFERING.

The Archbishop of York confessed that owing to his "astonishing health" he could not remember spending a day in bed in his life, and he had, therefore, never been subject to the art and practice of nursing. What the community knew and felt about the great art of nursing had been revealed to us of this generation as never before in the memories of the Great War. One of the pictures most indelibly impressed upon his memory was that of the first advanced dressing station and field hospital which he saw with the Army in France. It was in the midst of one of our great battles, and he should never forget the men arriving in the ambulances, bruised and battered, and often covered with mud and blood, and then, within an incredibly short time being transformed into quiet, patient and soothed recipients of the kindness, thoughtfulness and skill of the nurses. There were hundreds and thousands of men who preserved, and even dwelt upon, one great memory of the War, and that was the thoughtfulness, kindness, and attention they received from the nurses in the hospitals, both at home and abroad.

That was one reason why the Nursing Profession had gained a position such as it never had before in history.

Another reason why it had attained so great a position was that the advance in recent years both in medicine and surgery were, he supposed, the most remarkable fact in the history of humanity in the last fifty years, and these advances depended absolutely, and at every turn, upon the skill and devotion of the nurses.

The Archbishop referred to suffering humanity as a great child, and to hospitals and nursing homes as nurseries where once again a great deal, not only of our comfort, but of our character, depended upon the nurses. Courtesy was, he said, the fitting acknowledgment of the rightful claims which others had upon us, and when courtesy was turned towards the weak, the helpless, the suffering, it attained the high quality of chivalry. There was nothing that could give such grace or dignity to the art of nursing as that quality of chivalrous courtesy to suffering humanity.

He did not think it could be easy, in actual practice, to remember the rightful claim of the ever-changing cases brought in to respectful courtesy. Professional routine was the enemy of the best in all of us. This quality of courtesy was one of the greatest that nurses could possess. It ought not to depend on the emotions of the moment—he could not imagine a nurse being adequate who was in the slightest degree sentimental—but to be somehow rooted in the inner springs of life. It must come from some abiding quality of the spirit, and he could imagine nothing more likely to sustain that spirit than the remembrance of the homage paid to suffering humanity by the Divine Man, the Son of God.

GENERAL TRAINING FOR MENTAL NURSES.

In reply to a communication sent out by the G.N.C. to the Matrons of 233 General Hospitals, asking that facilities might be given to trained Mental Nurses for obtaining a two years' course of general training, as laid down by the Rules of the Council, the following replies were received:—

Replies received:—

Willing to accept	..	..	..	..	22
Unable to accept	..	..	..	..	73
Acknowledgments	..	..	..	..	46
Unanswered	..	..	..	..	104

The following is a list of the hospitals willing to accept Mental Nurses for general training:—

London—Guy's Hospital; New End Hospital, Hampstead; Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford; Park Royal Hospital.

Provinces—Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne; Barnstaple, North Devon Infirmary; Bolton, Townleys Hospital; Halifax, St. Luke's Hospital; Hemel Hempstead, West Herts Hospital; Kidderminster Infirmary; Plymouth, Poor Law Infirmary; St. Helen's, Providence Free Hospital; Salford Infirmary; Stoke-on-Trent, North Staffs. Infirmary, Hartshill; Stoke and Wolstanton Union, Newcastle, Staffs.; Warrington, Infirmary; Hastings, Royal East Sussex Hospital; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Wingrove Hospital; Sheffield, Fir Vale, Hospital.

We congratulate these institutions upon their evidence of good sense, and desire to benefit those suffering from insanity—a very grievous affliction which the whole hospital world should unite to alleviate.

ALICE IN BLUNDERLAND.

Naturally there has been much adverse criticism in the hospital world at the ineptitude of the G.N.C. in addressing enquiries to the Matrons of general hospitals and infirmaries, which should be sent to the Committees which are, of course, responsible for the management of the Nurse Training Schools attached. For instance, the Registrar made enquiries from the Matrons of general hospitals as to whether they were prepared to admit trained mental nurses for a shortened course of two years, instead of three years' training?

Matrons have also been invited to express an opinion as to the suitability of senior members of the medical staff as examiners.

Both these communications from a Statutory Body should have been addressed to the Committees of Management, who would naturally consult their Matrons before sending a reply. But the tactless ignorance in matters of business of the G.N.C. is now so widely recognised that "Alice in Blunderland" is a recognised sobriquet for our Governing Body.

THE GENERAL NURSES' ELECTION.

There is a rumour abroad—we hope it is not true—that it has been proposed that nurses registered on the Supplementary Registers—Male, Mental, Children's and Fever—should in the amended Schedule for the election of the nurses' representatives, be given a vote for the General nurses' eleven representatives, so that nurses *not* eligible to be placed on the General Part of the Register, should practically control the election of the General nurses' representatives. The suggestion is so outrageously unjust that we hesitate to believe even a member of the G.N.C. could venture to propose it; but if any such scheme is recommended it must be opposed by every nurse on the General Part of the Register, by every means in her power.

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