

THE FULHAM HOSPITAL.

Presentation of Medals, Certificates and Prizes.

A very festive occasion marked the Annual Presentation of Medals, Certificates and Prizes to the pupil nurses of the Fulham Hospital in the Board Room of the Guardians' Offices, 129, Fulham Palace Road, W., on Monday, October 28th.

It was, however, not untinged with sadness, for it was the last time under the auspices of the Fulham Board of Guardians, who have good reason to be proud of their Training School.

The distribution was preceded by a generous and delightful tea in the charming new Recreation Room provided for the Nursing Staff in the new Nurses' Home of the Hospital, in St. Dunstan's Road, Hammersmith, who looked extremely well after their guests.

We heard it remarked that at Fulham Hospital they were just a happy family, and from our observation the remark was justified, for the presence of the Matron and Medical Officers seemed in no way to restrain the naturalness of the crowd of happy-faced girls who were handing cups of tea and plates of cakes, and incidentally enjoying the good things themselves.

The distribution of rewards was a very interesting ceremony.

As many of the Nurses as could be spared from their duties were assembled, the certificate and prize winners occupying the front row.

The Matron, Miss M. G. Allbutt, looked imposing in the beautiful robes to which she is entitled as a former member of the Council of the British College of Nurses, and we hope that her distinction, which is the result of her joining the College, will be an inspiration to the new graduates to go and do likewise.

It was one of those occasions when women seemed to have come into their own.

On the platform, the able Chairman of the Board, Miss C. Fulford, presided, and introduced Dr. F. Barrie Lambert, C.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Chairman of the Public Health Committee of the London County Council, which will take over the Hospital on April 1st, 1930.

It was a graceful and generous act to invite Dr. Barrie Lambert to fill this position on this historic occasion, which must of necessity have been a sad one for those who had loved and laboured for their beautiful Hospital for many years.

The Chairman in her opening remarks spoke of their great pride in the Hospital, and said that Poor Law Nurses now stood in the front ranks of their great profession. Progress and the acquisition of knowledge were not easy, and thanks were due to all who lighted the paths towards them in the Training School. She alluded to the fact that last year the passes of the Nurses in the State Examination were 100 per cent.

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. C. T. Parsons, O.B.E., who wore his doctor's robes, made a very inspiring speech, and said that the Poor Law Hospitals stood alone in that they opened their doors to every class of case, including the cancerous, verminous, and physically repulsive, and they were nursed with meticulous care and gentleness. The well-trained Poor Law Nurse was the best in the world. He laid no stress on the nursing of the complicated surgical and medical case, though of course he appreciated it, but it was a pleasure to the nurse who performed it. But the "exceptional" nurse was the one who made a ward of chronic patients so happy that they cried when she was removed.

He spoke of the Training School as the inspiration of Perpetual Youth.

Dr. Barrie Lambert, who, in addition to her many distinctions is a trained nurse, of course spoke of the coming

alteration in the administration. She hoped that each Nurse present would help to make the L.C.C. Nursing Service the finest in the world.

She then presented the Medals, Certificates and Prizes to those who had won them.

Silver Medal.—Probationer Nurse Edna Daniels.

Bronze Medals.—Probationer Nurses Margaret Clarke, Mary Kate Gallagher, Kathleen Clara May Goodyear, Sarah Elizabeth Lowcock, Sarah Annie Pace, Edith May Rumbold, Doris Squibb, Emily Beatrice Ellen Sylvester, Bridie Whelan.

Also Certificates, awarded to Probationer Nurses on the completion of their period of training to ten nurses, and the following prizes:

Medical Superintendent's Prizes for Probationer Nurses.—Edna Daniels, Abby Twomey.

Matron's Prizes for Second Year Probationer Nurses.—Georgina Gilmour, Maud Heames.

Sister Tutor's Prizes for Junior Probationer Nurses.—Violet Priscilla Higgins, Winifred Sheerin.

Twenty-five Nurses received certificates for Proficiency in Cookery for the sick, and the Universal Cookery and Food Association presented a copy of the book "Cookery for Invalids" to the first fifteen of these nurses.

At the close of the ceremony, the nursing staff lined the wide well staircase, and joining hands formed an arch for the Medical Superintendent to pass through, which he did with great speed, his scarlet robes flying behind, to the hearty rendering of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

The Nurses' Home was opened last June, and by the courtesy of the Matron we were shown round it.

At the entrance there is a very small smoking-room, smoking not being allowed elsewhere in the building. When we commented on its size we were told that very few of the nurses smoked (other hospitals please note). The lecture room is so arranged, with sliding doors, that it can be divided up for class rooms or opened up for lectures.

The cookery classes under the Sister-Tutor, who holds diplomas for the same, are well provided for with kitchen and appliances. There is a little laundry where the nurses can launder their own "pretties," and an incinerator to dispose of all waste matter. A well-equipped little kitchen with a small "geyser" that takes only half a minute to boil, makes a cup of tea at all times possible.

Each nurse has her own bedroom, which has everything necessary for comfort, including a basin with hot and cold water, a bright-coloured down quilt, and a long glass in the wardrobe. What more could she ask or want?

Despite its being a very busy moment, the courteous Assistant Matron took us by the lift on to the flat roof, which is a most delightful asset, and in the summer is liberally provided with deck chairs.

On a fine day the view over London is very extensive. We looked down on the garden provided for the patients and nursery children, and designed by Miss Fulford (the Chairman), who is a Fellow of the Horticultural Society.

We do not wonder at the "feeling akin to pain" in the hearts of the Fulham Guardians at seeing all this fruit of their labours pass into other hands.

H. H.

A Conference on the international control of Opium and Dangerous Drugs is to be held at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C., on Wednesday, November 13th.

This Conference is being arranged by the Women's International League, which has taken up the study of the question of opium in response to an appeal from the Chinese Anti-Opium Society, the effects of which are seriously hampered by the flood of dangerous drugs that is being poured into China and the Far East.

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