

on the Staff of the Leeds Public Health Department as a Health Visitor.

The terrible tragedy of the death at a provincial hospital of a child while undergoing an X-ray examination because a probationer nurse who had not been warned, or who did not understand the warning given, placed herself unwittingly in a position to form a complete electric circuit, emphasises the necessity for giving precise instructions to all who come into the sphere of such highly dangerous appliances. The coroner, while holding that there was no culpability on the part of the nurse, said that the question of inexperienced nurses going into an X-ray room was one which might very properly be considered by the hospital authorities for the future.

It is announced by the Cardiff correspondent of *The Times* that the whole nursing staff employed at the Lord Ninian Hospital has decided to resign. The reason given for this action is that the Dowager Lady Bute, who founded the hospital as a memorial to her son, Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, formerly M.P. for Cardiff, who was killed in action, has decided to place the administration of the hospital under trustees. "We have decided to resign," said Sister Arsene, the Mother Superior, "because we are unanimous in our conviction that the institution cannot be run under trustees." The hospital is a Roman Catholic Institution, and the staff consists of five nuns, a night nurse, four probationer nurses, and maids. The doctors and surgeons who attend the hospital are chiefly from Cardiff Royal Infirmary, and doctors from all parts of the city have patients there. The Dowager Marchioness will hand the institution over to trustees as from January 21st.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Aosta went specially to Rome to be present at the bestowal of the silver medal and diploma *Al merito della sanità pubblica* granted by Royal Decree in August, 1928, to the Reverend Mother Catherine, Matron of the Hospital and Nursing School of the Little Company of Mary.

A very large and distinguished gathering assembled for the occasion, including the Duchess Caffarelli, lady-in-waiting, and the Duke of Tosti, gentleman-in-waiting, to Her Royal Highness, Avvocato Ricci representing the Governor of Rome, Comm. De Ferrari representing the Prefect of Rome, Comm. Messea, Director-general of Public Health, and many other notabilities.

After a few words of welcome from Professor Margarucci to Her Royal Highness, Dr. Pavone delivered his presidential address, in the course of which he said: "This ceremony, which brings up the number of certificated nurses for this school to 160, is always dear to us all as the feast day of our well loved Matron, the Rev. Mother Catherine, and this year has a special solemnity owing to the presence of your august Royal Highness... The feast to-day assumes an unwonted importance also because it specially concerns Mother Catherine, to whom has been granted by the decree of His Majesty the King, the Silver

Medal of Merit for the Public Health, on the recommendation of His Excellency Benito Mussolini, Head of the Government, Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, and he has given to me, in my office as President of the Administrative Council of this School of Nurses, the grateful task of assigning it to her. I undertake this task with the greater pleasure, in so far as this recompense in justly honouring Mother Catherine, honours also the Little Company of Mary, of which she is so worthy and able a member, and the British Hospital and this School, of which for so many years she has been the venerated Matron."

The speaker then referred to the work of the Sisters in the earthquakes of Reggio, Calabria, Messina, and Marstica, and to their work during the Great War.

After the Medal and Diploma had been conferred on Mother Catherine, the Sisters who had finished their course advanced to the platform and received their hospital diplomas from the hands of Her Royal Highness.

We congratulate Mother Catherine most warmly on the great honour which, by Royal command, has been conferred upon her; we hope later on to give an account of all that we saw of the Hospital and Nursing School in Rome of which she is Matron. She has taken no small share in the evolution of Nursing in Italy, and the Nursing School founded at the Hospital is exceedingly efficient and bears evidence that she has all the qualities of mind that one would expect to see in a great pioneer of Nursing education.

Miss Sarah M. Round, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Panvel Kolaba, India, who recently paid a visit to the British College of Nurses when in England writes: "Will you kindly accept my Christmas and New Year greetings? Christmas time gives one just the opportunity of sending a kindly greeting.

"I had a rough voyage back and can no longer call myself a good sailor. We had a terrific thunderstorm in the Red Sea, and the lightning was the most vivid I think I have ever seen. We were all glad when Bombay was reached in safety.

"How anxious everyone is about the King. We had a special Service for him the other Sunday in our little Chapel. I have just read the latest news cabled from London. It is a trifle better, but very serious.

"I had a queenly welcome back to Panvel, and all the patients say that they are glad because their mother has returned. The work is going on on all sides, and once I get that motor car I shall, I trust, get more into touch with the distant villages.

"Later on I hope to write some details of the work which may be of sufficient interest to publish in the Journal. I am having my Diploma framed. Not only I myself but the All Saints Community are very proud of it."

Miss M. E. Misner, R.R.C., F.B.C.N., whom many members of the British College of Nurses had the pleasure of meeting during her visit to this country last year, contributes to the December issue of the *Canadian Nurse* a very full report on School Health in London, in the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)