

Sir Warren Crooke-Lawless was re-appointed chairman and Miss Bright, vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

The Committee heard with very great regret of the death of Mrs. Minet, who had been a member of the Council since 1899, and had devoted a great deal of her time to the work of the Institute and to the training home in Camberwell.

The Annual Report of the Ranyard Nurses, the Nursing Branch of the Ranyard Mission, is always interesting, for established in 1868 by Mrs. Ranyard, (L.N.R.), and including on its staff in its early days, Miss Agnes Jones, and other devoted women, their mantle seems to have descended on their successors at the present day, and there is no more earnest body of nurses than the Ranyard Nurses who work amongst the poor of East London.

The Hostel in connection with the Society is at 25, Russell Square, W.C., and here the candidates stay during their training in district work. Here also the nurses from the various districts come weekly and so maintain contact with their centre. A flourishing new district has been organised in a large and very poor area in Deptford.

So dire was the need that the General Superintendent was permitted, even while the district was being canvassed for a contribution of a penny a week (which was all the locality could afford) to send two nurses—friends living in a flat together—who have divided the district between them, and are doing splendid work. More and more they feel the greatness of the opportunity.

The Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund for Disabled Nurses, of which Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught is President, was able to present an excellent Report signed by the President at its Annual Meeting. During the year the investments towards the foundation of fresh annuities have been increased by £1,000 and the auditors' statements indicate a healthy and well considered relationship between income and expenditure.

From those who have been receiving annuities throughout the year the Council received many grateful letters of thanks and several have stated that it would have been quite impossible for them to meet the difficulties, arising on their disabilities, but for the help given them from the Fund. Over seventy nurses are now in receipt of annuities of varying amounts, and they know that the continuance of these is assured during their lifetime or until they are provided for from some other source.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, the Hon. Secretary, to whom the position of the Fund is largely due is greatly to be congratulated on its success.

Our Editorial on "Coroners' Nurses" which appeared in our last issue has aroused interest in many directions, and the wonder is that the present system has continued so long in these enlightened and humanitarian times. The next thing to do is to arouse the conscience of the Home Office on the question and secure the sympathy of the Coroners themselves.

Several Nurses write from Municipal Hospitals, that hospital mortuaries as well as public mortuaries need

reform. This is a question on which all the nurses' organisations should write to bring pressure on their Members of Parliament. The present system is unworthy of a civilised nation.

The action of Miss Lillie Elliott, S.R.N., 55942—recently sentenced at Willesden Petty Sessions to three months' hard labour for theft—in assuming the name of Barbara (in which name she was sentenced) was peculiarly heartless. The name of Barbara was that of a nurse in training at the same hospital as herself, but who, owing to ill health, did not complete her training. Lillie Elliott, as a private nurse stole not only from the living but the dead, and Miss Barbara Elliott and her relatives have been greatly pained at her name being involved in a case of so dishonourable a character.

Comments on the size of the nursing staff at Whipp's Cross Hospital were made recently at an inquest at Leytonstone.

As reported in *The Evening Standard*, Dr. A. Ambrose, the coroner, was told by a nurse that she was on night duty in a ward containing twenty-five patients, and that while she had left it to attend to a child who was seriously ill one of the patients, Elsie Marion Caulfield, wife of a hospital storekeeper, of Terrace Road, Upton Manor, Plaistow, jumped from a window.

Dr. Ambrose expressed the opinion that it was desirable that twenty-five patients in a ward should not be left alone for a moment.

Dr. J. C. Muir, medical superintendent, said that out of 169 nurses forty-nine were allocated for night duty in twenty-six wards. It was desirable that the nursing staff should be increased, but they had no accommodation for them. The present accommodation was crowded.

The Coroner: It is no good building an extensive hospital like this without having a staff. If you want more nurses you should have them.

We quite agree with the Coroner that a ward containing twenty-five patients should not be staffed at night by one nurse. It seems incredible that such an arrangement should exist at the present time. The London County Council is now responsible for arrangements at Whipp's Cross Hospital, and it must provide increased accommodation for the nursing staff, without delay. It is no use saying it cannot be done.

An hour before the annual social gathering of the British Red Cross Society Blood Transfusion Service was held at the Holborn Hall a call was received from Guy's Hospital for the assistance of the service. The volunteer sent, a nurse, later received from the hon. secretary (Mr. P. L. Oliver), the badge of honour given to members who have undergone ten transfusions.

A very important question was raised at a recent Conference convened by the Royal Society of Teachers in a Resolution moved by Miss F. G. Chamings demanding that every school should be provided with facilities for drying children's clothing in school hours and for supplying hot water. Miss Chamings argued that many cases of colds, coughs and chills were traceable to the wet clothes in which the children often had to

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