

When Miss Ashburner appeared before the Council on October 24th, 1930, very strong influence was brought to bear on her behalf by the Chairman and the Matron of the Wembley Hospital, where she was employed. The decision of the Council was as above stated.

At the meeting of the General Nursing Council on October 23rd, 1931, "the case of Miss Elizabeth Hunter Ashburner, S.R.N., 22,927, deferred from Council Meeting on October 24th, 1930," was considered.

The Chairman informed the Council that Miss Ashburner had kept in touch, as directed, with the Registrar, and that her offence was a first and isolated one, and that the Matron of the Wembley Hospital stated that her conduct during the year had been beyond reproach.

The Council then deliberated *in camera*, and the following Resolution passed by the Council was subsequently communicated to the Press.

Resolution.

"That in the case of Miss Elizabeth Hunter Ashburner,

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

On Wednesday, October 7th, at the Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, the President, Lord Meston of Agra, opened Thorpe House, the beautiful new Nurses' Home and Lecture Hall, presented to the Hospital by Councillor Arthur Thorpe, J.P., a munificent supporter of the hospital.

Before the opening ceremony the visitors, who included many well-known residents, were entertained to tea, the tables being beautifully decorated. All was expectation when Lord Meston arrived, accompanied by Mr. A. D. Snow, the Chairman of the hospital, and Miss E. Webb, the Matron.

The Chairman, in welcoming Lord Meston, enumerated his many services to the hospital since becoming its President. That afternoon he would receive another of Councillor Thorpe's generous gifts, the title deeds of the adjoining nurses' home and the newly-built lecture hall.



THE LECTURE HALL FOR THE BUCHANAN HOSPITAL NURSES.

S.R.N., 22,927, judgment on whose case was deferred for a year on 24th October, 1930, her name be not removed from the Register."

The Effect of the Decisions.

The effect of these decisions therefore is that the name of this Registered Nurse, proved guilty of theft in a Court of Law, was retained on the written and printed Register of Nurses in 1930 and 1931 and will be published again in the Register for 1932.

We are of opinion that the name of every Registered Nurse proved guilty of theft in a Court of Law should, *ipso facto*, be removed from the State Register. It would then be for her to apply for restoration of her name on affording proof of amendment and good conduct. For the General Nursing Council to keep the name of a nurse under the surveillance both of a Court of Law and of the Council, on the Register, and thus guarantee her to the public as a fit person to attend upon the sick is quite unjustifiable, and an insult to the honourable nurses who have a right to look for protection in such a matter from their Governing Body.

This gift, moreover, included all the fittings and furniture of the new premises. "The nurses are extremely important to the welfare of the hospital," added Mr. Snow, and Lord Meston, in distributing to the nurses the medals and badges won by them, said "Nurses in general, and ours in particular, do a great human service."

The successful nurses were:—*Medals*, 1929-1930: Miss Yates (silver); Miss Reed (silver); Nurse Sutton (bronze). 1931: Nurse Ferdinands (silver).

Bronze badges and certificates, 1931: Nurse McLening, Nurse Shaw and Nurse Head.

First year prize for general efficiency and good conduct: Nurse Evelyn Chapman.

A bouquet of red and yellow roses was then offered to the Matron by Nurse Bell, and a pocket-book was presented on behalf of the nursing staff to Councillor Arthur Thorpe by Nurse McLening.

Councillor Arthur Thorpe then said: "Nothing I have done or am doing to-day I claim any credit for. It is simply the natural outcome of my abiding interest in the hospital and what the hospital means—a tremendous service to the community in which we live."

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