

"We all raise our hats to the skill and devotion of the physicians and surgeons, but the work of the nurses is so arduous, exacting and responsible, that without it, in many instances, the work of the doctors would be of little avail. The Matron of the Buchanan Hospital has a two-fold passion: the service of the patients and a deep and affectionate interest in the nurses and in their progress and welfare. I know how jealous the Matron is that her nurses shall have every chance to develop their noble profession.

"The equipment of the Lecture Hall is in fullest accord with the regulations of the General Nursing Council. One item is a full-sized figure of a man. The Matron has called him 'Theodore,' because the human body is the 'gift of God.' In their aspirations and skill our nurses are striving to be deserving agents in the divine art of healing."

Lord Meston then read Councillor Thorpe's letter to the Chairman offering the gift of Thorpe House, and spoke of the perfection of detail in the equipment of the building. He added that the Matron would now be relieved of the teaching of the nurses, as a Sister Tutor had been appointed. He hoped she would continue the brilliant record of success attained under Miss Webb's care.

Councillor Thorpe having briefly expressed his appreciation of Lord Meston's words, and thanked the nurses for their gift to him, Lord Meston walked over to Thorpe House and unlocked the doors of the Nurses' Home and the new Lecture Hall, and the visitors having assembled there, dedicatory prayers were offered by the Rev. James Morgan, Rural Dean, and a hymn was sung very sweetly by a Choir of Nurses.

The Home was then on view, and many expressions of admiration were heard both as to its structural convenience and the comfort and completeness of the arrangements both of the Home and Lecture Hall.

The Annual Statistical Review for the year 1930, just published by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, contains no evidence of any falling off in the five year period of the Review in the total amount of voluntary gifts to the maintenance of the hospitals of London. On the contrary, they increased during the three years, 1928-1930, from £1,689,000 to £1,836,000.

In view of the present financial situation, the figures are of more than ordinary interest.

The appointment of Sir William Goschen as chairman of the Committee of the London Hospital in succession to the late Lord Knutsford has been announced.

Sir William Goschen, who is the brother of Lord Goschen, Treasurer of Guy's Hospital, has been a member of the House Committee of the London.

The only open fire in the reconstructed Victoria Memorial Jewish Hospital, at Cheetham, Manchester, will be in the new Princess Elizabeth children's ward, which is to be as much like a nursery as possible. The china will be adorned with nursery rhymes and pictures of teddy bears; the coverlets, curtains and nightgowns will be embroidered in orange and green, and a "cheerful fresco" will run round the walls.

REMEMBRANCE DAY.

The annual Remembrance Day appeal on behalf of Lord Haig's British Legion Appeal Fund will be made on November 11th, the anniversary of Armistice Day, when Flanders poppies will be on sale in every town and village throughout the country.

Helpers are needed in London, and those who can offer their services as poppy-sellers in the City and West End districts should communicate with the Organising Secretary, 18, South Street, Park Lane, W.1.

LEGAL MATTERS.

District Nurse Wins Action for Slander.

In the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice Mrs. Henrietta Miller, a Queen's Nurse, of Battle, Sussex, of 25 years' experience, was awarded £150 damages for alleged slander against her neighbour, Mr. Herbert Thomas Turl, an omnibus inspector, on the ground that he stated to the Hon. Secretary of the local Nursing Association (Mrs. Sheppard) in the presence of other passengers, that he did not wish anyone sent to his house to collect subscriptions this year, "because I don't want to have a woman who is living apart from her husband coming to my house."

Upon Mrs. Sheppard telling him that the plaintiff's position was well known to her committee and the authorities at Lewes, Mr. Turl said "he did not want a woman who had men in her house up to twelve o'clock at night." The defendant had refused to withdraw the words complained of. He denied, however, that he said "men" and "12 o'clock at night," and ultimately it was agreed that the words should be taken as "man" and "eleven o'clock."

A lodger in Mr. Turl's house, aged 61, said he had been attended by Mrs. Miller as a nurse and a perfectly harmless friendship was begun, and he subsequently went to her house to amuse her little son. All the time he knew her he was aware the plaintiff was a married woman. Their friendship was perfectly innocent from start to finish.

Witnesses and evidence having been heard on both sides the jury, without leaving the box, found for the plaintiff and awarded her £150 damages, judgment for which was entered with costs.

A Terrible Mistake.

At an inquest at West Ham on a child three months old, after the use of a wrong anaesthetic, it was stated that the child was taken to St. Mary's Hospital, Plaistow, on account of ear trouble and had to have an operation. Dr. B. O'Malley, the resident medical officer, asked the out-patient Sister for some 2 per cent. novocain and she gave him a bottle of 20 per cent. cocaine. Both bottles were alike in shape and size, but were of different colours, and each was clearly labelled. When the mistake was discovered two hours were spent in an effort to revive the child.

The Coroner (Mr. George E. Hilleary) said that such an occurrence was very rare. The case had in it failure of the human element.

The jury returned a verdict of Death by Misadventure. The case illustrates the extreme care necessary in handling dangerous drugs.

A Patient Fatally Scalded.

The terrible tragedy of the death of a private patient owing to her nurse, Annie Robson, throwing a jug of boiling water over her and hitting her on the head, resulted in the trial of the nurse for murder at the Leicester Assizes.

Dr. Colohan, of Leicester, said he reached the conclusion that Robson had been suffering from delusions. Brooding on delusions of a sexual nature was very liable to bring on mental trouble. It usually took the form of psychic epilepsy—a mental disease caused by a sudden discharge from the surface of the brain.

"My theory in this case," he said, "is that Robson had a sudden attack of psychic epilepsy, and instead of the more usual fit, the epilepsy took the form during a period of amnesia of this sudden, unreasonable murderous attack."

The nurse was found "Guilty but insane," and was ordered to be detained during His Majesty's pleasure.

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