

"HOSPITAL DEATH DANCE."

DYING MAN'S TERRIBLE INDICTMENT.

A newspaper has its public duty to perform, otherwise the Editor of this Journal would not defile her columns by alluding to what is known in the nursing world as the "Hackney Horror," but reforms are not made by hushing up matters which inflict base cruelty on poor defenceless sick people, entrusted by citizens to the State in our Municipal Hospitals for skilled and tender care.

We allude, of course, to the dying statement of Mr. W. G. Henry, who had been a patient in Hackney Hospital, of his appalling experience, to a representative of *John Bull*, of which complete corroboration was obtained.

The incidents, barbaric in their inhumanity, disclosed the fact that an old man named Brooks, dying behind a screen in the next bed to Mr. Henry (whose wife and sister were present), was left alone to die in agony by the nurse as the clock struck six, and that she was deaf to his call. To quote *John Bull*, "The doors of the ward were open, and from the beds the patients and their visitors were looking upon the swirling company of dancers in the corridor. But none of the dancing nurses (and male attendants) paid the slightest heed to the anguished cries from the screened bed." When Mr. Henry's sister went into the corridor of noisy dancers and asked a nurse to attend to the man calling for help, the reply was, "Nonsense, that man is dead. He died at six o'clock."

The dance went on.

"Soon the man's cries broke out once more, he pleaded again and again for a nurse to come to him, and the listeners heard the sound of violent sickness. He had apparently tried to reach a metal basin on, or near, his bed, and failed. It clattered to the floor."

At 6.30, half an hour after he had been left to die neglected and alone, this poor old man passed to his rest. How one's heart burns to think of it! Mrs. Henry naturally removed her dying husband from an institution where callous cruelty, by certain members of the nursing staff, was apparently unchecked. We learn that the new Public Assistance Committee of the London County Council, now responsible for the care of the sick in Municipal Hospitals, made a prompt official enquiry, and that the worst offenders have been discharged.

But this disgraceful episode cannot stop there. We now require a public report of the proceedings taken by the London County Council, and a Code of Regulations in force making a repetition of the scandal impossible, the sooner the better.

To the late Mr. Henry and his wife and sister, the public and the Nursing Profession owe sincere thanks for their courageous action in exposing the appalling lack of ethical standards and discipline at the Hackney Hospital.

WEDDING BELLS.

The engagement is announced between Engineer-Commander P. H. McCartan, R.N., eldest son of the late Mr. Michael McCartan, of Burrenreagh, Castlewellan, County Down, and Mrs. McCartan, of Southsea, and Miss Joan Ferris, 26, Sussex Gardens, W.2, daughter of the late Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Ferris, of Fermanagh and County Kerry.

Miss Joan Ferris was trained at the West London Hospital, and has been a member of the Registered Nurses' Association, where a vacancy to train in midwifery was given to her, so that she also holds the C.M.B.

APPOINTMENTS.

ASSISTANT MATRON AND SISTER TUTOR.

War Memorial Hospital, Burslem.—Miss N. Price, S.R.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor. She was trained at the Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford, and has since been Ward Sister at the General Hospital, Kidderminster, Night Sister and Relief Sister Tutor at the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, Sister Tutor at St. Helen's Hospital, Lancs., Sister of the Surgical Floor at the General Hospital, Ottawa, Canada, and Sister and Deputy Matron at the Isolation Hospital, Shepton Mallet. Miss Price holds the Housekeeping Certificate of the General Hospital, Nottingham.

Dorset Mental Hospital, Dorchester.—Miss F. Campbell, R.G.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor. She was trained at the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, where she was later Staff Nurse, and at the Stirling Mental Hospital, Larbert, where she was later Assistant Matron. Miss Campbell has also been Sister at the Royal Cancer Hospital, Glasgow.

SISTER TUTOR.

County Mental Hospital, St. Albans, Herts.—Miss B. Presly, S.R.N., has been appointed Sister Tutor. She was trained at the North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, and has had three years' mental nursing experience. Miss Presly has been Staff Nurse at Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone, and has been on the Private Nursing Staff of the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

HOME SISTER.

Park Hospital, Davyhulme.—Miss M. Roberts, S.R.N., has been appointed Home Sister. She was trained at the City General Hospital, Sheffield, where she has since been Ward Sister and Night Sister. Miss Roberts is a Certified Midwife.

Rutland and General Infirmary, Stamford.—Miss M. Rogers, S.R.N., has been appointed Night Sister. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Chester, where she has since been Theatre Sister and Ward Sister. Miss Rogers has also been Theatre Staff Nurse at the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women.

WARD SISTER.

City Mental Hospital, Cardiff.—Miss M. M. Duffy, S.R.N., has been appointed Ward Sister. She was trained at the City Infirmary, Nottingham, and at the District Mental Hospital, Dundee, where she has since been Charge Nurse; she has also done Private Nursing. Miss Duffy is a Certified Midwife.

STAFF MIDWIFE.

Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham.—Miss M. B. Evans, S.R.N., has been appointed Staff Midwife. She was trained at the Walton Hospital, Liverpool, and received her Midwifery Training at the Maternity Hospital, Birkenhead. Miss M. Thomas, S.R.N., has been appointed Staff Midwife. She was trained at the Walton Hospital, Liverpool, and received her Midwifery Training at the Maternity Hospital, Birkenhead. Miss R. Eason, S.R.N., has been appointed Staff Midwife. She was trained at the New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, and received her Midwifery Training at the Leeds Maternity Hospital; she has been District Nurse under the Victoria Nursing Institution, Walsall. Miss D. I. Grigg, S.R.N., has been appointed Staff Midwife. She was trained at the Royal South East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, and received her Midwifery Training at the St. James' Hospital, Leeds, and has been Staff Nurse at the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

LEGACIES TO NURSES.

Mrs. Josephine Lawrence Butler, of Faringdon, Berks, left "£150 a year to her faithful nurse, Frances Wheeler."

Mr. Daniel H. Grimdsdale, J.P., of Uxbridge, left £50 and £5 for each year after the date of his will (November 26th 1926), to Nurse Minnie Hansell.

Mrs. Emma Hardtayne, of Eastbourne, left £300 to Nurse Hettie Smith, "as a token of my warm appreciation of her skilful attention in illness."

Major William E. Chapman, of Lancaster Gate, left Nurse Marie Jowett Edwards £500.

The Hon. Lockhart Matthew St. Clair, C.B.E., C.I.E., of St. Ermins, Westminster, left £500 to Nurse Barbara May Selley.

Mrs. Elizabeth Weston, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, left "certain furniture and £300 to Sister Marie Wills, in remembrance of myself and my late husband."

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