

Shall we shake hands on this bargain?"

We did.

And their kindness to me personally I shall never forget—three of the six ultimately followed me to "Barts." and the one who still lives is the fortunate possessor of a "Howard" cottage at Brighton.

As for the patients, it was marvellous how the varied treatment of five visiting physicians and five house physicians was scrupulously carried out.

This Sister was on duty at 7.30 a.m. and seldom retired till 11 p.m. She then enjoyed an hour's study. She took temperatures, gave medicines, dressed skin cases, helped with the helpless, especially the great number of serious cases of typhoid, sat with those delirious (special nurses *were* a luxury), and did not hesitate in an emergency to wash feet and corpses!

Hours spent in rounds with the Hon. Staff, all smiles and dimples, ready to reply to every question and note directions. Two rounds daily with the house staff, ready to supply information and perhaps advice, and a welcome for every student. An eagle eye and sympathetic encouragement where tired nurses were concerned, and an intimate knowledge of the home conditions and family affairs of everyone of the 52 very poor patients entrusted to her care! No mean accomplishment.

Sisters and nurses, half a century ago, retired to rest after a perfectly splendid expenditure of mental and physical energy, and thanked God for their gloriously useful lives.

Times have changed, but from what we observed on a recent visit, the traditions of service at the London are still intact.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

A NEW MATRON AT THE PRINCE OF WALES' GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The Governors of the Prince of Wales's General Hospital announce that the post of Matron, to be rendered vacant by the retirement, after thirty-four years' invaluable service by Miss Bickerton, R.R.C., has been assigned to Miss Lucy Andrews, of Guy's Hospital.

The new Matron, who commences her duties on January 1st next, has high professional qualifications. Educated at the Nightingale School for Girls, Sleaford, she started her nursing career at King's College Hospital in 1916, and since 1918 has been at Guy's Hospital. She was trained there for three years and after serving as Assistant Home Sister for a few months became one of the Night Sisters. Six months later she was placed in charge of the special wards containing forty-four beds, including cases of ophthalmology, laryngology, neurology, dental surgery and dermatology.

She held this post for seven years and since 1929 has been sister-in-charge of clinical wards (forty-four beds, including acute medical, surgical and special investigation and private cases).

Miss Andrews follows a Matron at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital whose devotion to duty will be difficult to excel. We wish Miss Andrews all success in her very interesting charge. She will have the help of a band of well-trained nurses, united in a public-spirited professional League.

QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF DISTRICT NURSING.

The Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing met on December 7th. The Earl of Athlone presided, and there was a large attendance.

The Council received with much regret the resignation of Miss Ellinor Smith of her post of superintendent for Wales, to take effect about the end of March next year. In view of this a reorganization of the inspection work has been agreed upon, so that the work in Wales will be on the same lines as in England.

Since the last meeting of the Council 14 District Nursing Associations have been affiliated, and one association re-affiliated. Reports have been received on the inspection of 519 districts in England and 57 in Wales, showing that very good work is being done. It is most satisfactory that the work is being carried on and extended in the present difficult times. The names of 254 nurses have been placed on the Roll of Queen's Nurses, and 82 applicants have been engaged for district training. The Council is glad to be able to report that there is now an adequate supply of candidates for training and of Queen's Nurses to meet the demands.

The Council has constantly in mind the importance of reducing the maternal mortality rate. The desirability of post-mortem examinations in maternity deaths was urged by the conference of "Queen's" superintendents, and the Council agrees that there is great need for the education of public opinion in this matter.

Much gratitude was expressed by the Council at the large sum raised for district nursing by the opening of the gardens in England and Wales this season. There were 1,079 gardens and many houses on view, and the total number of openings was 1,769. The sum of £10,527 16s. 4d. was raised; the institute receives 40 per cent. of this and the remainder goes to the counties in which the gardens are situated. The Council is most grateful to all those who have helped to make the opening of the gardens such a success.

The estimated expenditure submitted by the various committees for 1933 was approved, amounting to £16,535 14s. The difficulty of raising the money to cover this expenditure is realized, but it is felt that the need of district nursing is greater than ever in the present difficult conditions and that no effort must be spared to enable the institute to carry on and develop its work.

CHRISTMAS COMFORTS FOR PENSIONER PATIENTS.

The Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society have arranged, through the Ministry of Pensions, as in previous years, to provide additional comforts, such as Cigarettes, Tobacco, etc., for the men actually in Ministry Hospitals on Christmas Day. There are, however, ex-Service Pensioners who will be patients in other hospitals as a result of their War disabilities and the Joint Council of the two bodies is endeavouring to get in touch with these hospitals, so that no eligible cases in hospital on Christmas Day may fail to receive the same gifts as those in Pensions Hospitals.

The blue of heaven is larger than the cloud.—

G. B. Browning.

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