

THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL WORLD.

NURSES' PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT FULHAM HOSPITAL.

A large gathering of visitors and friends were present when Mr. E. M. Dence, LL.D., J.P. (Chairman of the London County Council) presented prizes and certificates to nurses at Fulham Hospital on October 12th. Miss C. Fulford, the very popular Chairman of the Hospital Committee, presided.

Miss Fulford said her personal association with the Fulham Hospital and Training School had been a close and affectionate one for many years, and recalled the prizegivings in the Guardians' Board room in former days. People were inclined to forget the debt they owed to the Poor-Law Service in Public Health matters, and the great progress that had been made by the Nursing Profession. She particularly welcomed Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the greatest pioneer of the Nursing Profession to-day, the Founder of the International Council of Nurses, and the promoter of State Registration for Nurses, and Miss Ballantyne, a former Matron of the Hospital, as well as the distinguished Chairman of the County Council (Mr. Dence) who had a long and honourable record on the London County Council. The Chairman went on to say that she knew that nursing progress had not been along an easy path, but a very stony one, as Mrs. Fenwick could tell them.

The Medical Superintendent's Report.

Dr. C. T. Parsons, O.B.E., Medical Superintendent, in a brilliant address, presented a statement on the year's work.

He said that 39 candidates entered for the London County Council examination and 35 passed, Nurse Constance Brown gaining a bronze medal and Nurse M. Anderson passing with distinction. Eight candidates entered for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board and seven passed; 26 candidates out of 35 passed the final examination of the General Nursing Council, and 20 out of 23 candidates passed the preliminary examination of the General Nursing Council. This was a total of 105 candidates and 88 passes, a percentage of 84 successes. This was below the average, and they were not satisfied with anything less than 90 per cent. of successes. The successes gained represented very hard work on the part of both the teachers and the taught. The main bulk of the work was done by the Sister Tutor (Miss Macintyre), and success was also due to the organising ability of the Matron (Miss Allbutt), to the Lecturers (Drs. Stone and Turner), to Nurse Matthews and Sister Pickering, to the ward sisters as well as to the individual work of the probationers.

Dr. Parsons continued: "Thirty-four years' experience has taught me that no examination ever has or ever can place nurses accurately in the order of their value as nurses. The nurse who is honest with herself knows whether she is a good or bad nurse. She knows it from her knowledge of herself, from her knowledge of the regard in which her patients hold her. And to any nurse who has failed either completely or relatively and who knows the examiners to be wrong, I commend the words of Marcus Aurelius: 'Conceive his soul stripped naked and then imagine his censure hurting or his plaudits doing any good.'

"Training for examinations is a soul-destroying work deadly to the teachers and to the taught. Fortunately in a hospital teachers and taught are saved from damnation by their personal contact with the patients. Here they are forced to learn something of the true values of life. They see the bitterness and the comfort of death without tasting it, the cowardice and the fortitude that suffering brings without having to endure it, selfishness and the triumph over self, patience and peevishness, the failure of the soul and its victory. Coming so much in contact with the

tragedies of life our nurses can save themselves from melancholy only by cultivating their sense of humour.

"The good tales of this year have fallen below the average but here are a few:—

"Two of our old lady patients had read an account of Twilight Sleep in the *Daily Mail*. They did not understand it, and so they asked one of our chaplains to explain. The padre was embarrassed and wishing to put it delicately said: 'Twilight Sleep is—er—one of these new fangled labour-saving devices.'

"At intervals I give the probationers hints upon the art of answering an examination paper. Amongst other things I tell them they should never leave a compulsory question unanswered merely because they know nothing about it, that common-sense and a knowledge of general principles if used intelligently will often enable them to write down something on which they *may* get a few marks, but that if they leave it unanswered they will certainly get none. Soon after I set a question 'What advantages has human milk over cow's milk in the feeding of infants?' one of our probationers if she ever knew anything about the subject had forgotten it, but undismayed like a true daughter of Fulham she wrote 'The advantages of human milk are: (1) It is always at body temperature, (2) It needs no addition of water or of sugar, (3) It is in constant supply, (4) It is available by day and night, and (5) The cat cannot get at it!'"

Dr. Parsons concluding, said: "Some of you are leaving and the School will miss you. You will go as those before you have gone to all parts of the earth. But you take the School with you. Bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh, its traditions and its life have grown into you and you cannot escape from it.

"Ever and anon a trumpet sounds
From the hid battlements of Heaven."

"In your lives at times will ring the Trumpet Call of the School, its two mottoes: 'To spread abroad our fame by our deeds' and 'Love worketh Love.' Believing in you the School will judge you not as the world judges, but as you judge yourselves.

"It trusts its honour in your hands and in the knowledge that you will not soil it, it wishes you Farewell and God Speed."

Dr. Parsons' address was enthusiastically acclaimed.

The Chairman of the County Council Congratulates the Hospital Staff and Committee.

On rising to address the Meeting, Mr. Dence was received with applause by the nurses present:—

He said he represented two bodies of persons that afternoon, first the patients and secondly the ratepayers. He represented a large body of patients who were very grateful and found it difficult to express their gratitude to the doctors and nurses for the splendid treatment received. Also, the Council, as one of the great spending authorities, was concerned about the efficiency of the Institutions. They already had efficient hospitals and they were going on still further. The reputation of the London hospitals was among the highest in the world. Between the voluntary hospitals and the municipal hospitals there was complete friendship and co-operation. It was a good thing for the people of London that it was so. He congratulated the Doctor, Matron, staff, nurses and Management Committee on the splendid work done, and thanked them on behalf of the patients and the ratepayers of London.

Medals, Prizes and Certificates.

The awards were then distributed as follows by Mr. Dence, an honour evidently greatly appreciated by the happy recipients:—

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