

which is included in the one hundred and eighty-fifth Report of the Committee of the Infirmary, states:— "Once again we have to report that there is little, if any, special feature to which we can draw attention in the year under review, but this, we may claim, is only evidence as to the continuance of the well-nigh perfect management of the Matron and her Staff in relation to all matters appertaining to the Nurses' Home. Whilst, as we pointed out before, every attention is given, and we believe rightly so, to seeing that the comforts and general amenities of those who nurse the sick committed to our care is all that can be desired, no effort is spared to perfect the knowledge of our Probationers and Nurses in the various branches of the great Profession to which they belong. It is evidence not only of the skill of the Lecturers but also to the standard of our Nursing Staff that every Nurse who entered, both for Preliminary and State Examinations, passed, and it must not be forgotten in this regard that the tendency nowadays is that the papers set result in a more searching examination of the duties and knowledge both on the practical and theoretical side.

"We have already drawn attention to the splendid work of the Matron, and we tender to her on behalf of the Committee and the supporters of the Infirmary our warmest thanks for her outstanding services."

The Matron, Miss Mary Jones, A.R.R.C., in her Report for the year states that during the year forty-one candidates were accepted for training. Of these thirty-nine entered the Preliminary Training School and passed on to the Hospital. Twenty-nine Nurses completed three years' training, three of whom left because of a three years' engagement; one was appointed Sister at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, one married, and one returned to qualify for taking the C.M.B. certificate. Twenty-three completed four years' training, a number of whom received important appointments. At the Annual Meeting and Nurses' Prize-giving the Gold Medal was presented by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Alfred Gates) to Eileen Mary Dalgarno, and the Silver Medal to Dorothy Armstrong. In addition, special Book prizes given by Lord Brocket were presented to Nurses who had gained the highest marks in the hospital examinations, and Book prizes for examinations and essays in hygiene given by Mr. David Cowden and Mr. Howard Williams.

During May, the Student Nurses organised an American Tea. It was held in the Orthopaedic Department and was primarily in aid of the Florence Nightingale International Memorial Fund. They were very keen and enthusiastic in their efforts, with the result that £50 was sent to the Fund and Seven Guineas to the Nation's Fund for Nurses.

On Saturday, October 21st, a Nurses' Re-Union was held for all former members of the Nursing Staff, commencing with a short service in the Chapel (conducted by Archdeacon Howson) and followed by tea in the Nurses' Home. At an informal meeting held immediately afterwards, a Royal Infirmary Nurses' League was formed. Miss Jones' aim is to keep all Nurses in touch with their Training School and to form a bond of union between past and present Nurses. The League Re-Union will be held annually.

A delightful presidential address by Dr. Horace C. Colman, to the Forfarshire Medical Association, published in *The Lancet*, is packed full of wisdom, understanding and humour on the subject of old age, which nurses could study with sympathy and enjoyment. Do we not all "learn to admire and respect an indomitable spirit rising supreme above poverty and real hard work?" Here is perhaps an unusual, but not exceptional instance:

"An old woman had known poverty so extreme that she and her brothers and sisters gathered wool from the hedges for her mother to spin, and gleaned in the corn-fields and kept the straw for their mother to make hats for them. She married a widower who developed locomotor ataxia and went blind. She nursed that man, led him about, and in his old age catheterised him for seven years, kept pigs and hens, and took in washing, and for many years never had more than three consecutive hours' sleep in bed. To the end, which came when she was 87, she kept up a cheerful outlook on life that made friends for her all round, and I am glad to remember that she had a few years of peace and quiet after she buried that unfortunate husband."

And relatives, and even nurses, of old people, may profit from this advice on fussing.

"Old people, when they are feeling in good form, like to kick over the traces occasionally, and often the best thing we can do for them is to protect them from too fussy relatives. Even if they get thoroughly tired out, they have enjoyed themselves, and after a good rest are seldom the worse.

"Probably we can all think of delightful pranks played by cheery old people on their protectors. One of the most amusing I know is told of a distinguished member of our profession, equally distinguished as an artist, who had retired to Hampshire in his old age. One lovely day in June his wife and daughter settled him comfortably in the garden, with everything that he could need, and then trotted off for a day in town.

"No sooner were they gone than away went the rugs, and the old gentleman was busy at the telephone fixing up three cronies for lunch and whist at his club. The next train carried him to London too. After a joyful day he watched his wife and daughter get into the train, slipped into another compartment, and met them at the ticket barrier, expressing the hope that they had had as good a day as he had."

Probably the nurses who are most successful, and certainly the most acceptable, are those who realise that because a patient is ill or infirm, he has not lost his individuality, and dislikes being completely dominated.

In our last issue we referred to the fine work being conducted in the Italian Campagna by the Public Health Nurses of the Italian Red Cross, under the direction of the Marchesa di Targiani Giunti; the last Quarterly Review of the British Red Cross, under the title "Conquering the Pontine Marshes," gives the following interesting facts in this connection:

Many attempts have been made to drain and redeem the land. Cæsar planned a great canal to that end, Trajan carried out important operations to safeguard the southern section of the Appian Way, that traversed the marshes and to save it from the encroaching swamps.

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