

active members of the Service to look ahead and prepare to qualify by State examination.

We commend this advice to those men and women who are contemplating training in mental nursing, as well as to the governing bodies of mental hospitals.

We cull the following paragraphs from the same Journal:—

"A letter of protest against the employment of female nurses in the male wards of L.C.C. Mental Hospitals has been addressed to Mr. Herbert Morrison, the Leader of the Labour majority on the London County Council, by the Secretary of our Stannington Branch, on the instructions of his members.

"The letter points out the degrading nature of the duties involved, and the tendency for female nurses in male wards, from reasons of modesty, to omit from their reports particulars of the depraved conduct of patients, and asks for the removal of this 'moral scandal' from the mental hospital service. The letter concludes: 'We are never surprised when a Tory Council adopts the disgusting practice, but the members of our Union certainly did expect that when the Labour Party took control at County Hall there would have been an end of it so far as London was concerned. Please do not besmirch the Labour banner by continuing further female nursing in male wards.'

It seems incredible that such a letter could have been written in these days. No duties for the welfare of the sick can be of a degrading nature.

Is it not time that trained women of the highest type should be in control of the mentally sick wherever possible? Where they are so employed great success has been the result:

Dr. T. S. Good, Medical Superintendent of the County and City Mental Hospital, Littlemore, Oxford, urged at the recent biennial Mental Health Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster, that modern mental hospital patients should have a large amount of liberty. He held that it was possible to have most of the wards with unlocked and wide open doors and unstopped windows. He said: "Experience shows that escapes do not occur with any great frequency; in fact, they occur less frequently than with the old system of locked doors.

"Of course, it is absolutely necessary to have a certain proportion of the patients under more close supervision.

"At the hospital with which I am acquainted, out of 521 female patients only 86 women are under lock and key, that is 16.5 per cent.

"Out of 302 men, 48 are under lock and key, or 15.9 per cent. With this advantage the patients are more contented and give less trouble."

The Programme of the Second Annual and first International Meeting of the Guild of Hospital Librarians—concerning which we gave some information in our last issue, and which will be held in La Salle Debussy, 8, rue Daru, Paris, from May 8th to 11th—is now published, and includes interesting points for discussion, the most important probably being the proposal to form in each country a National Association of Hospital Librarians, and to nominate one member of each of these Associations as a liaison officer with Mrs. Roberts, Hon. Secretary of the Guild of Hospital Librarians, 48, Queen's Gardens, London, W.2. There

will be opportunities for social intercourse, and for visits to Hospital Libraries. The travel and accommodation arrangements are in the hands of Thomas Cook & Son, Ltd., who will supply a list of hotels on request. The Conference headquarters hotel will be Hotel Burgundy, 8, rue Duphot, Paris (1^{er}), and those wishing to stay there should apply for terms direct to the hotel.

Not only hospital librarians but all who are interested in the subject of hospital libraries are invited to attend.

The unique title of the Head of the Nursing Staff of King's College Hospital is "Sister Matron," and it is interesting to learn from *The Walrus*, a Friendly Messenger to the Friends of King's College Hospital, how and when this title was first assumed.

"It was at the beginning of August, 1885, that the change over took place in the nursing staff of King's College Hospital, when the nursing was given up by the Sisters of St. John's House, and in their place lay nurses were engaged under the new Matron, Miss Monk. By rules which were then drawn up, she was designated as the Sister Matron.

"Owing to the financial position the Hospital was in such difficulties that a special sub-committee was appointed to consider what steps might be taken to effect an improvement. The annual expenditure was £16,300, and the deficit was £5,770. The Committee came to the conclusion that 'a very material amount of economy is not only practicable, but a matter of plain duty, in the administration of charity,' and as a means of effecting economy, they proposed the erection of a Nurses' Home upon land available alongside the Hospital, and they estimated that the annual cost of 'a well-managed hospital of moderate size should not be more than between £60 and £70 a bed.' Among the recommendations was one to establish a recognised dietary for the patients. Altogether their estimated savings were calculated to amount to £1,200 a year."

Miss Monk came of military stock, and was known to her contemporaries as an excellent superintendent and teacher of nursing. "King's" was celebrated in her day for the detailed refinement in the care of the sick, a reputation it still maintains. Like most of her colleagues in charge of Metropolitan training schools, she was an "anti" during the State Registration struggle—but upon retirement she altered her views and saw "daylight." She became convinced of the need of statutory nursing standards and Registration. Whatever her views, she held them from honest conviction, and was in no way otherwise influenced.

Mme. Ada Bodart (*née* Doherty), friend of Edith Cavell, who rendered great services to the Allied soldiers in the Great War, and who in August, 1915, was sentenced by a German military court to fifteen years' penal servitude, and interned in Silesia, has died in Brussels. She was a great favourite with the "Old Contemptibles," and in post-war days many of them visited her at her home in Brussels.

During the year 1935 Mrs. Breckinridge, the Director of the Kentucky Frontier Nursing Service, had the honour of receiving from the University of Kentucky the Sullivan Medallion for distinguished service.

It is indeed well deserved.

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