

and work of a Nurse is a thing to be "heartily welcomed."

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THE conclusions on Nursing, which the Lords' Committee have published at the end of their Third Report, will, I feel sure, interest all Nurses, especially the Members of the R.B.N.A., who have played such a chief part in bringing the existing conditions of Nurses' labour, both in and out of Hospitals, before the public.

NURSING.

The subject of nursing is treated at length on pages 73 to 85. A certain amount of variety exists as to the hours of employment of nurses in the general hospitals in London. The Committee consider that eight hours work, exclusive of the time for meals, is, as a rule, as much as should be required from nurses in these hospitals. In constructing future hospitals, care should be taken that sufficient accommodation for nurses be provided to allow of the hours of nursing being reduced.

They would suggest that every nurse in the large and busy hospitals in London should have at least two days off in the month, and that the period of holiday should not be less than three weeks; that not less than one full hour should be allowed for dinner; and while, on the whole, the food of the nurses appears to be good, yet, from the nature of the occupation of nurses, special care ought to be exercised that as well as being sufficient in quantity and quality it should be served in an appetising manner. To bring about this end, the Committee are strongly of opinion that at the nurses' dinner one of the head officials of the hospital should preside, and that the dinners should be frequently visited by members of the governing body.

The Committee note with satisfaction the great preponderance of opinion that the health of nurses in London is good.

The Committee think it very desirable that, where the funds of the hospital permit, pensions should be provided for nurses, whether by the hospital following the example of the London and Guy's by joining the National Pension Fund for Nurses, or by the hospital providing a special pension out of its own funds.

Nurses in the wards should not have their duties increased by doing menial work, such as scrubbing and cleaning grates and lavatories, or other services of a like nature. For that purpose, as is the case in most hospitals, the class of servant termed "ward-maids" or scrubbers should be employed.

While the Committee recognise that the Matron must be greatly responsible for the appointment and dismissal and general conduct of the nurses, they are strongly of opinion that no absolute power ought to be given to any Matron, but that the appointments and dismissals should be made by the chief executive authority of the hospital. It is to be observed that many hospitals send out nurses after a certain period of training, at sums varying from one guinea to three guineas a week, to private patients. That these nurses bring considerable addition to the funds of the hospital there can be no doubt. The Committee consider that this is a good practice, but that, to prevent the wards from being denuded of nurses in order to bring funds to the hospital, a separate staff should be employed for this purpose. They are of opinion that the minimum period, after which a nurse can be advertised as thoroughly trained, is three years; and considering the large amount of money these nurses can earn for the hospital, the Committee think that a sliding scale commission on their earnings, mentioned as being in practice at one of the large general hospitals, would be a fair addition to their regular hospital wages.

DISPOSE OF THE DEAD AS NATURE DIRECTS.—Everyone interested in the reform of funeral abuses should read the Brochure published by the London Necropolis Company. It can be had gratis of the Secretary, 2, Lancaster Place, Strand, or 188, Westminster Bridge Road.

It appears that at the London Hospital, in the form of certificate for nurses, certain blanks may be filled up in different ways, according to the discretion of the Matron. The nursing capabilities and conduct of the nurse may be described respectively as "excellent" and "exemplary," which constitutes a first-class certificate, or as "good" in both cases when the certificate ranks as second-class. It would seem that the latter form is used when the Matron is by no means satisfied with a nurse; and the Committee think that words indicative of inferiority should be inserted in all certificates below the best, if, indeed, it is desirable that any such certificate should be issued at all.

In regard to male nurses, who appear to be only employed in cases of violent patients, with the exception of two hospitals, every care should be exercised to secure the services, if not of duly-qualified men, of well-known and thoroughly trustworthy persons having, if possible, some experience.

Nursing in the Poor Law infirmaries differs in various institutions. In some a large proportion of nurses are hospital-trained; but the Committee regret to find that one-half of the Matrons are not regularly-trained nurses. The Committee are strongly of opinion that not only all Matrons, but that all nurses in a Poor Law infirmary should be trained nurses; and the Committee would recommend that no nursing whatever should be done in infirmaries by paupers. The Committee remark that there is no separate infirmary at Bethnal Green, and they observe with surprise and regret that there appears to be in the sick wards in this workhouse a regular staff of less than 20 nurses, some of whom are 65 years of age, and that as many as 80 paupers are employed as nurses.

The Committee consider that the number of nurses should be increased throughout the infirmaries, and that infirmaries should train their own nurses.

This system already exists at one of the largest infirmaries in the metropolis.

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THE *Nurses' Journal* still maintains its high tone both topically and from a literary point of view—and considering it is a woman's paper, is remarkably free from gossip, which is an example the editors which cater for the male sex might follow with advantage. The editorial which deals with the application of the Royal British Nurses' Association for a Royal Charter, should be read by every Nurse and Doctor. Two papers read at the Sessional Meeting are printed—"Nurses' Uniforms," by Miss S. J. R. LANDALE, and "The Prevention of Disease," by Dr. A. T. SCHOFIELD. The former is written with a delightful spice of satire and knowledge of her sex, which is refreshing.

"The woman" says Miss LANDALE, "who despises dress is, if she exists—which I doubt—an anomaly; and in those who affect to despise it, the truly feminine joy in adornment is certain to find some other expression. No doubt it is this universal instinct which makes it so difficult for nurses to endure the monotony of uniform dress, and the temptation so strong to vary it in every possible way they can, so that the whole meaning and intention of it is rapidly becoming lost among us."

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AGAIN:—

"A nurse should never be conspicuous. To be so is against the whole spirit which should dominate her life; and yet, with flying cloak and jangling scissor chains—often hung with everything except scissors—white apron and white

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