

late King George V, Mary the Queen Mother, and Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, now Princess Royal, visited the Hospital—His Majesty to decorate patients with medals awarded to them and Her Majesty to present the successful Nurses with certificates.

Mr. C. Ward, who was Chairman, was responsible for this big organisation and, in addition to giving the Bronze Medal, he gave the Training School its motto "*Semper ad Coelum*"—"Aim high."

The first Prize-giving Day, therefore, for this Hospital was organised 30 years ago, and today we are privileged to have with us Lady Rhys Williams who, as you are aware, is no stranger to Hospital activities and I, personally, would like to extend my thanks to your Ladyship for the great privilege which you have bestowed on us in accepting our invitation to present the Nurses' prizes and certificates.

Since the first Prize-giving Day was organised some real advances and changes have been made in medicine, but what of the Nurse? Has she changed? Florence Nightingale's description of Nurses in 1893 has never been excelled. She states that a Nurse must have:—

Method; Self-sacrifice; Watchful activity; Love of work; Devotion to duty; The courage and coolness of a soldier; The kindness of a mother; The absence of a prig, that is, never thinking that she has attained perfection or that there is nothing better; She must not look upon patients as made for Nurses but upon Nurses as made for patients.

The Nurse of 1893, I would say, is the Nurse of today and, I hope, tomorrow and all the attributes assigned to the Nurse of 50 years ago can be found in our present-day Nurse and trained staff.

As you are well aware there is a universal shortage of Nurses and there must be some reasons why our profession does not appeal to this generation. The Majority Report of the Working Party on the Recruitment and Training of Nurses shows that some of the reasons for wastage of students are:—

1. Hospital discipline and the preservation of out-worn systems.
2. The attitude of Senior Staff.
3. Hours of pressure of work.

Some or all of these factors may be the cause, but as our wastage from the Training School during the past year is only about 15 per cent., and we have had only 18 students leave in their first, second or third years, perhaps I can say with the Pharisee: "O God! I give thee thanks that I am not as the rest of men." Our recruitment is fairly steady. There are 27 students in our present Preliminary Training School and, in all, 250 in training.

Time does not permit me to enlarge on the given reasons for shortage of Nurses and I think the Press keeps you fully enlightened on the shortcomings of Nursing Administrators.

During the last few weeks the Minority Report of the Working Party on the Recruitment and Training of Nurses has been published by Dr. John Cohen, University of Leeds. Out of 77 pages, in the appendix of about 13 pages set aside, there are extracts from statements of letters sent by ex-Student Nurses relating to the discipline and attitude of senior staff. No Matron, Senior Officer or Sister could be flattered on

reading the remarks given therein and I think the ex-Students must have exhausted their uncomplimentary adjectives.

It would be interesting from my point of view if a Working Party was organised to inquire into the reasons why Administrative Staff are so frustrated and why training and hospital life have made Sisters and Matrons into such traditional horrors. I will not enlarge on this except to say that the attitude which is stated to be so unpleasant is probably due to stress of work or may be due to the inability of personnel to cope with responsibility, and I mean this kindly. However, this is a matter for further thought. I hope that one day it will be possible for all prospective Sisters to take a post-graduate course so that all Senior Administrators of the future are equipped to undertake their big responsibility.

To conclude:

This address would not be complete without a word of thanks to all those who either directly or indirectly help in the administration of the Hospital in the care of the sick. A hospital can be compared to a big wheel, the centrifugal point being the patient, and all members of the staff being the radiating spokes. The wheel would not rotate smoothly unless each and every member gave of his or her best. I will not attempt to thank any one person in particular for I feel that the work of all departments is intertwined and we all have our part to play.

I would say to those who have had awards and certificates:—

1. In spite of difficulties keep high standards in the forefront of your minds;
2. Find little ways to improve your own work in the interest of your patients;
3. Look, not for the way that is easiest but the way that is best for them. It is the little things that count when aspiring to the high standards in nursing;
4. Cherish the good name of your School and remember, in the words of Addison: "If you wish to make success in life make PERSEVERANCE your bosom friend, EXPERIENCE your wise counsellor, CAUTION your elder brother, and HOPE your guardian genius."

In a short address, the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Norman Jones, congratulated the nurses on that they had received their training in one of the finest hospitals in the country. In reply to the very warm vote of thanks proposed by Councillor E. C. Cannon, Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee, Lady Rhys Williams expressed her enjoyment of the whole afternoon. The presentation of a bouquet of flowers to the Senior Sister Tutor, Miss McBride, by the nurses, followed by a very hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman—proposed by Miss McBride and seconded by Miss E. McLaughlin Kirk, Gold Medallist—concluded this impressive ceremony.

The guests then repaired to the nurses' spacious recreation room and beautiful balconies adjoining, where a most delectable tea was served and much enjoyed.

Visitors were then conducted on a tour of the Hospital and grounds, and much admired the up-to-

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