

Moorfield's Entertains.

Medical and nursing staffs of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital (affectionately known as Moorfield's) gave their audiences on December 29th and 30th, 1948, a great treat by their, one might say, professional performance of "Quiet Wedding," by Esther McCracken, in three acts.

House and out-patient surgeons joined with sisters, staff nurses and student nurses to make this annual entertainment an unqualified success, by reason of this being the first time they had attempted anything as ambitious as a play.

The cast kept their audiences keenly interested throughout the events leading up to the wedding, and, speaking for ourselves, we found the parts of the over-anxious bride's mother, played by Sister Norah Mustard, and the ex-patient who portrayed the placid bride's father, to be exceptionally satisfying performances.

Much previous hard work must have been put into the preparations to produce this excellent finished article.

Miss M. B. MacKellar, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Matron, had given encouragement to this venture, and producers, stage and props. managers, and electricians were to be greatly congratulated upon this very fine effort.

Some Causes of Hospital Fires.

By a Correspondent.

Some considerable time ago the National Fire Protection Association of America issued a useful report concerning the causes of 104 fires in hospitals. If the facts revealed were more widely known it is likely that much greater care would be taken.

Electrical Defects.

Of all those fires no fewer than 25 per cent. were found to be due to electricity and spontaneous ignition.

Electrical causes were defective wiring, electric irons left on, short-circuiting in X-ray plant, and short-circuiting in Christmas tree lights. Actually, electrical causes accounted for 23 out of the 104 fires which broke out in hospitals over a wide area in the United States, and half this number was due to faulty wiring.

Twelve fires were due to sparks setting alight wooden roofs which ought to have been fire-proofed.

Six fires were caused by the burning of grease or inflammable liquids on stoves. Syrup, floor wax, rubbing alcohol, and medicinal oil catching fire while being heated also caused fires.

Carelessness.

Carelessness in the use of matches and smoking started five fires. Cigarette ends were dropped into a film drawer, into a pile of oil rags behind a radiator, and on to a curtain. A lighted match was thoughtlessly thrown into a dirty linen chute. It is possible, too, for a tired nurse, smoking in bed, to injure herself fatally, set the bedding alight, and perhaps cause the destruction of a nurses' home by her carelessness.

A nurse or other hospital employee who suddenly throws away a cigarette to escape detection may easily start a fire. Obviously it would be wiser if hospital managements allowed the staff a short break from duty at regular intervals.

Miscellaneous Causes.

Numerous fires were due to miscellaneous causes, such as lightning, rubbish near a heater, disinfecting fluid exploding, films igniting in a motion picture booth, damage to oil pipes through boiler support collapsing, and films in storage.

Other causes were escaping gas, careless fumigation, curtains blowing on to a gas jet, petrol igniting, and defective chimney flues.

Four fires were due to mental patients and pyro-maniacs, and four more were the result of spontaneous ignition.

Consequently oil mops and oily rags, etc., should be kept in special metal containers, the same commonsense precautions apply to other inflammable materials.

Numerous fires were started, too, by the use of non-safety X-ray and other film and volatile chemicals.

It is of interest and importance to note that 25 per cent. of the fires analysed were due to some reason unknown.

Appointments.

Matron.

BOLTON ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Miss Cecelia M. Jenkins, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Westminster Hospital, London, where she was later Administrative Sister; and in Midwifery at the Kingston and District Hospital. Miss Jenkins has also been Ward Sister at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith; Assistant Matron at the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Plymouth; and Matron at the Finchley Memorial Hospital, London. She has served with the Allied Commission for Austria and Germany, and is at present Technical Nursing Officer (S.W. Region), Nursing Appointments Office.

HALIFAX GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Miss W. L. J. Garner, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She received her training in London County Council Hospitals, and has been Senior Sister Tutor and Deputy Matron at the Redhill County Hospital, Edgware, and Matron at St. James' Hospital (North), Leeds.

WEST HYLAND HOSPITAL, CUCKFIELD, SUSSEX.—Miss R. E. Finch, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth; held senior positions at West Middlesex Hospital and Ashford Hospital, Middlesex; and has been Matron at White Lodge Hospital, Newmarket, Suffolk.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL, HULL.—Miss Olive Wainwright, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Derby Union Infirmary, and has been Matron at Cross Houses Hospital, near Shrewsbury.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, HULL.—Miss Maggie Allison, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne; at the Booth Hall Hospital, Manchester; and at the York Maternity Hospital. Miss Allison has been Acting Sister at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Ward Sister at High Teams Hospital, Gateshead; Night Sister and Ward Sister at the Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital; Holiday Home Sister at the Children's Hospital, Sheffield; Relief and Housekeeping Sister at Mansfield and District General Hospital; served in the Territorial Army Nursing Service, 1940-1945; was Home Sister at the Mansfield and District General Hospital; and Assistant Matron at the Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Miss Allison holds the Housekeeping Certificate of the Royal Infirmary, Sheffield.

Deputy-Matron.

FOUNTAIN HOSPITAL, Tooting Grove, London.—Miss E. M. Taylor, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.M.N., R.M.P.A., has been appointed Deputy-Matron. She has held appointments at Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn; Edinburgh Public Health Authority; Yeovil and District Hospital; Cassel Hospital, Kent; and Leith Hospital, Edinburgh.

Tutor.

FOUNTAIN HOSPITAL, Tooting Grove, London.—Mr. D. T. Lewis, S.R.N., R.M.N., R.M.P.A., has been appointed Tutor. He has held appointments at St. Bernard's Hospital, Southall; St. John's Hospital, London; Claybury Mental Hospital, Woodford Bridge; St. Stephen's Hospital, London; and holds the Tutor's Certificate of Battersea Polytechnic.

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