

St. Bartholomew's Hospital

The appointment of the new Matron of "Bart's." is one of great interest to the nursing world; this old and famous Hospital being one of the chief training schools in Great Britain.

The Matron selected, as was announced in "The Nursing Times" of 4th June, is Miss Annie MacIntosh, Senior Assistant Matron at the London Hospital, where she has been for thirteen years. From later reports we learn that this appointment has not been well received by "Bart's." nurses, and a meeting of protest was held, which was largely attended by nurses past and present. One chief cause of dissatisfaction

was that a Matron had been appointed who was trained in a Hospital which gave a certificate after two years' work. This is certainly a grave cause of apprehension, as the nurses of "Bart's." feel that the life-long work of their late esteemed Matron, in upholding the standard of nurse training, and in promoting the cause of the State Registration of Nurses, may be endangered by the introduction of one whose training has been under those opposed to this progressive movement.

Let us hope that Miss MacIntosh may adopt the policy of her predecessors, and carry on the work so well inaugurated.

Nursing Amongst the Maoris

BY AKENEI HEI, R.N.

It is a much-debated question in every kainga or village, whether the European civilisation has fulfilled its expectation. The old people say it has not. To prove their words they bring forward the decline of our race, closely following the forsaking of the ancestral customs. Educated Maoris favour the new order, and impute the national decay to modern tohungas, who are but impostors; and to the unhealthy conditions often prevailing in the native houses, foods, and clothing. But even in the most Europeanised families there lurks a secret attachment for those dear old customs, which are the result of so many centuries of experience, and no doubt contain many things worth keeping.

Such customs, having kept the Maori race in vigorous health for many generations, deserve consideration. They help Europeans to understand the workings of the native mind. A greater knowledge of the native mind will inspire a greater, and thereby a deeper sympathy for the Maori people, such sympathy abating the racial feeling, and thereby doing more for the uplifting of the Maori than all our Parliamentary laws and health regulations.

To draw the attention of the nursing world to this aspect of the Maori question, I have put together, to the best of my ability,

a few notes on my yet short experience amongst my own people.

Last November, I was transferred from the Public Health Department into the Native Department. New Plymouth was assigned to me as my headquarters. I spend my time nursing the sick in the villages, and teaching the natives a more sanitary way of living. In this work I encounter many difficulties. It is true that the suspicions natural to my people (especially the old ones) against European doctors and nurses, do not exist against me; but my work means the dissolution of some time-honoured customs; the tearing down of ancestral habits and teachings; the alteration of Maori thoughts and ideas of living; in fact, a complete revolution in their socialistic, communistic and private life. Who cares to have a stranger poking around his back door, condemning the hundred and one things which sanitarians know are detrimental to public health?

To the old Maori there were but four ways of death: first, witchcraft; second, war; third, natural death; fourth, accident or suicide. Every indisposition not connected with these four ways of death was imputed to some divinity, whose "Tapu" had been violated, or whose maglinant intervention had been sought for by an enemy. Hence,