

this project be carried out. And if carried out successfully, Buckingham may become a centre of supply of trained health missionaries, not for its own immediate neighbourhood only, but for many parts of England where such work is sorely needed.

It seems hardly necessary to contrast sick nursing with this. The needs of home health-bringing require different, but not lower, qualifications, and are more varied. They require tact and judgment unlimited to prevent the work being regarded as interference, and becoming unpopular.

They require an intense and real belief in sanitation, and that life or death may lie in a grain of dust or a drop of water, or other such minutiae, which are not minutiae but Goliaths—and the health missionary must be a David to slay them, and have his sweet voice, and must be trained as he was to fight the giants with the simple weapons of every-day use.

She must create a new work and a new profession for women. And she must make her work acceptable to women of the labouring class.

I trust that your County Council will not think me one of your interfering health missionaries. I know your interest in inaugurating a vital work among the rural poor women.

And I have, therefore, done your behest with alacrity. May North Bucks distinguish itself by its wisdom and success in giving such an education to rural mothers, and in waging the war against national deterioration of health and vigour. Pray believe me, dear Mr. Frederick Verney, your and the mothers' anxious and attached friend,

(Signed) FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

Frederick William Verney, Esq.

COMMENTING, on this *The British Medical Journal* says: "Mr. Verney announces on his part that Dr. De'Ath, of Buckingham, has been appointed instructor for the suggested School of Health which it is proposed to start, and which will consist at the outset of lady students, who will attend a course of about a dozen lectures, to be delivered by Dr. De'Ath at Buckingham. Railway fares will be paid, under certain conditions, to a limited number of students who attend the lectures regularly. A syllabus of the lectures will shortly be printed, and may be procured from Dr. De'Ath, who is now ready to receive the names of intending students. No fee will be paid by the students for attendance at the lectures. The work proposed is very similar to that which the National Health Society (53, Berners Street, London) is doing, for its own part, and on behalf of many of the County Councils in various parts of England; but aided and inspired by the powerful and sympathetic words of Miss Nightingale, their work should, in the form which she proposes, or in some similar and cognate form, receive a great impulse from the steps taken under her advice in Buckinghamshire. The National Health Society is, by the aid of Dr. Thorne Thorne, F.R.S., and other eminent lecturers, training a class of ladies for precisely this work, and has a considerable number already engaged."

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, Waterloo Bridge Road.

NURSE MARION PINCOFFS, M.R.B.N.A., Registered Nurse, Minehead, Somerset, who has been delivering a series of very successful lectures on Nursing in Devonshire and Somersetshire, has just inaugurated a new system of private teaching, that is, she will attend private houses and give lessons for a fixed fee per week.

I AM asked to state that, from unforeseen circumstances, the Membership Examination of the Society of Operators in Massage and Medical Electricity is postponed. The date of the examination is not yet decided upon, but will be made known as soon as possible.

OUR spirited contemporary, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, still keeps its eye on the doings at the London Hospital, as the following paragraphs which recently appeared in its columns show:—"We hope it will not be long before effect is given to the resolution proposed at the Quarterly Court of Governors of the London Hospital in favour of an extra week's holiday for the Nurses. This is one of the matters in which there has been a great and welcome improvement during the past year or so, since the time when the new public interest in Hospital administration was first aroused by the London Hospital discussion. At St. Thomas's Hospital, at University College, King's College, and Bartholomew's, the Nurses' holidays have been extended in the way proposed—from a fortnight in the year to three weeks. Not an excessive vacation, certainly, in a year of seven-day working weeks and twelve-hour working days; but a boon indeed compared with the miserable little fortnight which was hitherto the rule. At St. Thomas's and King's College Hospitals there has also been a welcome modification of daily hours, amounting, as we understand, to a reduction of 11½ hours to 9¼ in one case, and in the other of 13½ hours to 10½ or 10¼. Outside London, we should like to think that it was the same agitation which encouraged the revolt of the Nurses at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary the other day, in which they won such a signal victory over atrocious abuses, bringing round to their side (with yeoman aid from the Press) first the Medical Staff, then the public, and finally those authorities and their backers who at the London also complacently held out against facts to the last."

"We cannot chronicle any marked improvement in the attitude of the London Hospital authorities at the Governors' quarterly meeting. Some months ago, when the agitation was uncomfortably warm, they talked about some mysterious scheme for a re-organisation of the Nursing

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