

found by experience that it is hopeless to seek to move parents or students to take up the subject generally on its own merits, but that once it becomes a subject of examination the thing will be done. He is therefore getting up a petition to Oxford and Cambridge, signed by ten thousand parents, to urge them to make Hygiene an optional subject at their Higher Girls and Intermediate Women's Examinations. I sincerely trust he will be successful, and can only say that it redounds little to the credit of the nineteenth century that such a movement should be left to be carried on single-handed by a private individual, for, as Lord DERBY has wisely said: "Though sanitary legislation has done much, it is nothing compared with the value of a personal and private knowledge of the laws of health." Dr. SCHOFIELD'S course on Hygiene commences on the 10th inst., at 3 p.m., at the Polytechnic. The opening lecture is free to all, and I would advise as many of my readers as can do so to be present.

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I AM glad to hear such good accounts of the Stockton District Nursing Association, to the good work done by which I have on several previous occasions been able to refer. The Association owes much of its prestige to its active and energetic President—the MARCHIONESS OF LONDONDERRY, and much of its usefulness and success to the untiring labours of its Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. RIDLEY MAKEPEACE. The report of the Executive Committee contains the following interesting and very suggestive statements.

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"WE can now look back and review the work over 14 months, beginning on the 17th August, 1891, the date when the association took possession of the temporary premises at No. 3, Paradise Row. During the 14 months 522 cases have been entered on the books—the monthly average of cases has been 37—the greatest number entered in any one month 46, in December, and during last month, while the fever hospital was closed, to be in readiness for the dreaded visitation of cholera, there were as many as 13 cases of typhoid fever receiving the attention of our nurses, and all were visited twice daily.

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OUR staff of nurses has necessarily increased with the work, and it may here be mentioned that they are hospital-trained, fully qualified to undertake both medical and surgical cases. We began with three, we now have five, including the Superintendent Nurse, who visits every case immediately an application is received for a nurse; she does this for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is a suitable case for the Association, and of fully

understanding what the patient requires; she also continues to superintend the nursing of each case while it remains on the books. It will doubtless be of interest to members of the Council to hear that no less than 13,350 visits have been paid up to the 17th October, and we may remark that, with the exception of the summer months, during which time there was less sickness, and the opportunity was taken for the nurses to have their holiday, each successive three months shows an increase in the number of visits. The total number of visits gives an average of 26 visits made to each case entered on the books, and a further analysis shows that the daily average number of visits per staff nurse is 13. The greatest number of visits made by any nurse in one day is 20.

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WE reserve for our annual report more detailed statistics. Figures are but symbols, and statistics dry reading, but they are the best means of conveying a record of work accomplished—the result of such work in its influence for good is beyond our power to calculate. Who can tell the amount of suffering alleviated, or the number of lives that have been saved? We do not require figures to inform us that sickness and suffering are always prevalent, but we take these statistics as evidence that the services of the nurses are being more and more appreciated, that wherever they go their work speaks eloquently of the beneficent purposes of this Association, and the general effect upon all who are interested in district nursing tends, we believe, to an increased sympathy with the sorrows and necessities of others.

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YOUR Executive have to report that they have given effect to the resolution passed at the last Council meeting, when it was affirmed that, in addition to nursing the "sick poor" free of charge which, as stated in our annual report, we shall continue steadfastly to keep in view as the main object and original intention of the promoters of the Association, it ought now to be our aim to make it possible in time of sickness for every home in the district to receive the advantages to be derived from the visits of a trained nurse. This extension of our work has been made known by circular to the medical profession, and the clergy and ministers of all denominations, and the general public have been informed through the medium of advertisements in the local press. Your Executive Committee hope that the members of the Council will now feel it to be a duty to do all they can individually to make more generally known among their friends, and especially to remind their medical attendant, of the fact that this Association has set apart a special nurse to undertake nursing visits

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