

The lesson was repeated on Wednesday afternoon, when a large number of ladies attended from Meare, Shapwick, Street, Baltonsborough, Butleigh, and other villages round. We hear the lecture was of the most practical and helpful character, and that Miss WORTHINGTON deserves great credit for the pains she has taken to make the lessons interesting and to impress them upon her hearers. She leaves the town on Saturday.

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THE following, from the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, is another indirect instance of the growing importance placed upon Nursing in Australasia :—

Questions were asked in the Assembly yesterday as to whether Nurses at the Little Bay Coast Hospital, who attended to cases of scarlet fever and other maladies to which children are subject, were quarantined for three months, were not allowed while attending the case to go out of the ward, and while quarantined could not converse with their relatives or friends other than at a distance of several yards; also, whether it was a fact that Nurses at the Children's Hospital suffered no such restrictions? Sir George Dibbs replied (on information supplied by the medical adviser to the Government) that it was true that the Nurses were not allowed to go outside the wards while attending certain infectious diseases, but they were not compelled to take this duty for any lengthened period. Nurses frequently requested as a favour to be allowed to stay longer, owing to the markedly lighter work and the higher rate of pay allowed whilst on this duty. It was true that converse with friends was only allowed under the conditions stated. Scarlet fever and infectious diseases were not treated at the Children's Hospital. It did not appear desirable to relax the beneficial, though stringent, conditions at the Coast Hospital.

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THE following scheme not only shows how rapidly Nursing matters are advancing in South Africa, but it is one which demands the attention of Nurses in this country, because its advantages to the public are manifest. At a meeting held last month in Rondebosch, it was decided to form a Nursing guild on lines suggested by Professor LIEBMANN, who gave the following address :—

"It is scarcely necessary to say much on the incalculable value of the services of a competent Nurse in the majority of cases of illness, and it is not saying too much to state that the life of a patient in many instances depends on whether proper Nursing can be given. And if this be true of those who are comfortably off, who, therefore, do not suffer from the want of properly prepared food, and the thousand and one attentions so necessary to an invalid, how much greater is the need for careful Nursing amongst those who from their poverty cannot command even what to others are as the very necessities of existence? Though numbers of devoted women throughout the length and breadth of this Colony labour to alleviate the sufferings which fall to

the lot of the sick poor, their numbers should be increased enormously before any appreciable effect can be produced on the mass of cruel suffering, so largely due to ignorance and poverty. To this end no parish, in my opinion, should be without its staff of ladies who are willing and able to devote some portion of their time to attending to the sick under the direction of the doctor in charge of the case. It is with the object of establishing some such organisation that you have been asked to meet here this afternoon. A fortnight ago a preliminary meeting was held at the Rectory, and the advisability of establishing a guild affirmed. It is not the intention of making everybody a professional Nurse, but to try to put to practical usefulness the knowledge gained during the lectures on "First Aid" and Nursing. How to carry out this idea, and what should be the object of the guild! (1) To afford skilful Nursing to the sick poor in their own homes during severe illness or in case of accident; (2) to form a store of Nursing materials (some of which would be for loan only), such as lint, bandages, old linen, linseed meal, turpentine, cotton wool, gutta percha tissue, bronchitis kettles, water beds, inhalers, blankets, sheets, night dresses, waterproof, and other materials not generally within the reach of the sick poor, and which medical men are, therefore, unable to order, however needful they may be; (3) to obtain the services of ladies holding certificates of efficiency for the work, and willing conscientiously to carry out the directions of the doctor in charge of the case. The duties of the Nursing Associates to be: (1) to carry out conscientiously the directions of the medical man; (2) to see the sick person daily or as often as necessary; (3) to attend to the general sanitation and cleanliness of the sickroom; to apply, when required, poultices, fomentations, etc.; to take temperature and enter it on a chart for the inspection of the doctor at his visit, and to procure such Nursing materials as the case may demand. Let me give an example of how I propose that the work should be done. We must commence with small beginnings. If it is found that there is good to be done by the guild (and this can only be seen by testing the matter practically) it will grow and prosper, if not it will go the way of all useless innovations and descend to the limbo of oblivion. Let us say then that some unfortunate person has received an injury to his or her arm necessitating the daily application of a fresh poultice and proper bandage. The lady associate would see the patient twice daily, carry out the directions of the medical man, and so far as she was concerned her duty would end. Another might be required to take the temperature of a patient once or twice daily, and after she had noted the fact on a paper supplied for the purpose, her duty would end. Again, there may be some ladies who have not sufficient time or inclination to do the practical part of Nursing, but who would be quite willing to assist in altering some of the garments of old linen, and making them serviceable for those who require them, and who might become associates for needlework. Others, again, who cannot do either of the above things, might be willing to go and visit a sick person, and perhaps read to him or her for half-an-hour or so. Then comes the question:—How are the various materials and stores to be obtained? This might be done in various ways. In some houses a bronchitis kettle may have been purchased in a case of serious illness, and there being no further use for it, it has been consigned to the lumber room. Do not let it lie there in idleness. Present it to the store. Many other ways will doubtless suggest themselves to you by

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)