

sighted action of Dr. MUIR, and of the School Board which he has so well advised, because it is certain that the benefits of such instruction as that which is contemplated will be very far reaching, and probably will, in the future, tend to promote the healthiness of the homes cared for by those who will now receive such valuable teaching. In fact, much prevention of disease will probably be secured, as well as the better treatment of illness, when this occurs. It is much to be hoped that other school boards, and, in fact, the Government may be induced to follow this excellent example, and to sanction the general adoption of this important addition to the ordinary school curriculum. To girls, the information which they would thus acquire, will probably prove in after life infinitely more valuable than any other piece of knowledge which they have gained during their school days. But we have referred to the matter chiefly in order to emphasize the necessity for skilled instruction being given to, and for a certain amount of scientific knowledge being expected from, every candidate for admission to a Nurse Training School. And, surely, in the face of this instance of progress amongst the working classes, there can be few who will maintain that the middle and upper classes should not also provide such invaluable instruction for the members of their own families. If this be true for the community at large, it must hold good with still greater force in the case of those to whom such knowledge is absolutely essential if they desire rightly to comprehend the meaning and importance of the signs and symptoms of disease or accident. We have heard from various parts of the country that the views which have been expressed in favour of a complete technical preliminary education for Probationers before their admission to a training school, have been received with much favour by those whose opinions are entitled to the highest respect; and the gradually increasing number of first-class Hospitals which are demanding from applicants for admission to their wards that they should pass a preliminary examination shows that the feeling is taking definite and concrete form. Some may think, perhaps, as they have frankly said, that this is a mistake, and that its result will be to keep out from the ranks of Nursing some who are qualified to do it honour by the excellence of their practical work. But we must point out that it is the tendency of the age which cannot be ignored that the standard of education, in every calling and profession should be raised, and that with the increasing demands which are being every day made upon the skill and knowledge of Nurses, it is inevitable that a continually extending educational course will be expected from them. And if the Board Schools follow the example which has now been set them, surely the Nurse Training Schools cannot linger in the rear of progress.

LAMP ACCIDENTS.

There is good reason to believe that accidents from lamp-oil explosions are becoming more frequent and more dangerous, and that this result is partly due to inferiority in the oil, and partly to the adoption of badly-made reservoirs. Some time ago the matter was fully investigated by a number of experts who laid down certain valuable rules. Unfortunately, however, these do not appear to have become known, or, at any rate, have not been generally adopted, by the public. A very important improvement has recently been made in the method of feeding the wick from the reservoir which seems to give promise of absolute safety by removing the risk of explosions. It consists briefly in filling the reservoir with a fine gauze-like absorbent material which has been placed in oil, and has thus become saturated with it. The essential difference, therefore, between this method and that which is usually in force is, that there is no liquid or free oil in the reservoir itself, and, consequently, there is no air space above the oil, which is now known to become filled in the case of certain oils with an inflammable vapour, or more dangerous mixture of the vapour and ordinary air, which, after becoming of a certain temperature, causes an explosion. It is stated that this porous material will yield the oil, which it has absorbed, to the burning wick, to the very last drop, and the material in the reservoir can be recharged with the greatest ease by means of a tube running through the lamp from the pedestal, upwards. It is stated that a lighted lamp may be knocked over, or even rolled along the floor without the slightest danger, if its wick is thus fed from the absorbent material, as this, while giving up its oil readily to the lighted wick, will not part with any of it by oozing. The principle of this discovery is well recognised in chemistry, whereby, for example, mixtures of explosive gases can be burnt with safety by an analogous method, so to speak, of filtering them. Should further tests prove that the advantages which are claimed for this new method are justified—and, on the face of it, it would appear theoretically probable that such advantages will be obtained—the inventor, Mr. J. R. Howarth, will have rendered a service to the community at large which can be faintly estimated by the number of fatal accidents that are caused every year through the defective system of oil-lighting which is now in ordinary use.

THE REGISTERED NURSES' SOCIETY.

We are requested to draw the attention of Nurses to the advertisements which appear in our columns concerning this Society, and to emphasize the fact that it is proposed that only those who have received three years' training in a recognised hospital shall be eligible for membership. The Committee, with power to add to its number, consists of Sir JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE, Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, Mr. BRUDENELL CARTER, Mr. HERBERT PAGE, Mr. FARDON, Mr. HOVELL, Dr. LOVELL DRAGE, Miss STEWART of St. Bartholomew's, Mrs. COSTER of St. George's, Miss THOROLD of the Middlesex, Mrs. HEADLE, the late Inspector of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, Miss MEDILL of St. Mary's Hospital, Miss DE PLEDGE of the Chelsea Infirmary, and Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, who has consented, at any rate for the present, to act as the Honorary Superintendent.

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