

asked him what on earth he was doing there. He said he came up regularly to have his eyes looked after. 'Why,' I said, 'you could afford to pay this man a guinea every time, could'nt you?' 'Yes,' said he; 'but what is the use of being such a fool as to throw away your guineas when this chap will see you for nothing?' I was never so surprised in all my life. Here was a room full of fellows all being treated for nothing, and most of them smart-looking chaps, apparently earning good wages." To maintain this charity, the probability is that collecting boxes are periodically sent around the factories and industrial establishments of Liverpool, so that working-men and lads may contribute their spare half-pence! Is not the whole business a satire regarded from the standpoint of charity?"

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THE following important memorandum, issued by the London County Council, in view of the numerous fatal and other accidents caused by Petroleum Lamps, deserves to be widely known. The following suggestions are partly founded on recommendations made by Sir FREDERICK ABEL, C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S., and Mr. BOVERTON REDWOOD, F.I.C., F.C.S., after investigating the causes of lamp accidents:—

CONSTRUCTION OF LAMPS.

- 1.—The wick should be enclosed in a tube of thin sheet metal, open at the bottom. This wick should reach almost to the bottom of the reservoir containing the oil.
- 2.—The oil reservoir should be of metal, and not of china, glass or other fragile material.
- 3.—The upper part of the lamp which comprises the burner, wick-tube &c., should be constructed to securely screw into the metal reservoir.
- 4.—The oil reservoir should have no feeding-place nor opening other than the opening into which the upper part of the lamp is screwed.
- 5.—Every lamp should have a broad and heavy base and a proper extinguishing apparatus.

WICKS.

- 6.—Wicks should be soft, and not tightly plaited, and should quite fill the wick-holder without having to be squeezed into it.
- 7.—Wicks should be dried at the fire before being put into lamps, and should be soaked with oil before being lit.

MANAGEMENT.

- 8.—The reservoir should be quite filled with oil every time before using the lamp.
- 9.—The lamp should be kept thoroughly clean, all oil should be carefully wiped off, and all charred wick and dirt removed before lighting.
- 10.—When first lit, the wick should be partially turned down, and then slowly raised.
- 11.—Lamps which have no extinguishing apparatus should be put out as follows:—The wick should be turned down until there is only a small flickering flame, and a sharp puff of breath should then be sent across the top of the chimney, but not down it.
- 12.—Cans or bottles used for oil should be free from water and dirt, and should be kept thoroughly closed.

NOTE.—These suggestions apply to ordinary Petroleum or Paraffin lamps such as are generally used, and not to Benzoline or Spirit lamps.

Our American Letter.

MADAM,—Having read in your issue of the 7th inst. the interesting account of the Norland Institute, I think a short account of the Training School for Nursery Maids, in connection with The Babies' Hospital, in the City of New York, may interest your readers.

The First Practical Training School for Nursery Maids completed its fourth year on December 1st, 1893. We feel it is now on an established basis, and has ceased to be of an experimental nature. We have demonstrated that children's nurses can be successfully trained in a Hospital for Children, and so made it possible to furnish skilled and experienced servants for that most important part of a household—the nursery. This fact is of value to the public as being an entirely new departure.

Eleven girls have been graduated this year and are doing good work in private families. We continually have most grateful and appreciative letters from mothers, who claim that our Nurses are invaluable to them.

During the past year, Kindergarten instruction has been added to the course. One evening each week the Nurses have been taught by Miss Parsons of Brooklyn the Frœbel finger plays and songs, which are a valuable addition to the mental equipment of a Nurse for children. This coming year we hope to raise our standard in plain sewing. In every way the aim of the school is to make thorough servants.

Four of the Nurses did excellent work in connection with the New York Day Nursery exhibits at the World's Fair. After stating that seven thousand children were most successfully cared for during the last three months of the Fair, a Chicago paper asks, "How was this done?" and answers, "By Nurses trained under a system," so giving credit to our Nurses for much of the success of the work. There were also in the Woman's Building photographs of some of the Nurses at work in the Babies' Hospital; such was the interest shown in these that nearly ten thousand circulars were distributed telling of the school.

This work is sure to grow, as the demand for Nurses is so great, and, with a view to extending it, a central committee has been formed, to which any hospital or day nursery desiring to establish such a school may send representatives, and so have the advantage of what experience we have had in the matter.

The Training School has paid the Babies' Hospital for the board and lodging of its Nurses, and also half the wages of the Superintendent, besides paying the Nurses small wages, making the cost of six months' training for one girl about one hundred dollars (£20).

It is believed that some institutions might find it an economy, rather than an additional expense, to establish such schools.

It is hoped those who have profited by this work in having trained Nurses for their children, as well as those who are interested in the welfare of children, and the opening of a legitimate and interesting field to intelligent young girls, will take an interest in the school.

The course of training is as follows:—

The purpose of the Training School for Nursery Maids is to furnish systematic training to girls who

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