

and that, before their entrance into the Hospital, they should have proved their possession of a minimum amount of knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and hygiene. Such fixed standards would compel a more or less general adherence to a certain amount of uniformity in the practical ward-work.

But it has been urged that the adoption of a fixed standard of ward-work, would press hardly upon some of the smaller Hospitals, which at present only obtain Probationers with difficulty, and which, it is said, would not obtain them at all if further difficulties were thrown in their way, or if further demands were made upon their teaching powers.

We cannot but think that this is a matter which would be capable of easy adjustment, and that arrangements could well be made—and if the system came into force, would undoubtedly be made—between the various Hospitals in each district, so as to utilise their clinical work in the training of Nurses upon a somewhat co-operative basis. We believe that the principle of this system has already been put into practical shape; several special Hospitals being in the habit of receiving, for definite terms, pupils from general Hospitals which do not possess, themselves, the material necessary for imparting such special instruction. This system, we learn, has worked admirably, both for the Hospitals interested in it, and for the Probationers who have thus been passed through a varied routine of Nursing work.

It would be comparatively easy for the system to be organised upon a wider and more general basis, instead of being, as at present, of an occasional and somewhat haphazard nature. And we take it, that it would be a principle of the examining Boards for Nurses, which would be established under the uniform examination system, that the efforts of the examiners should be directed to ascertaining whether the candidates possessed the necessary knowledge and experience fitting them to receive a certificate of efficiency; and, provided only that the Nurse could produce the necessary testimonials of having passed through the full curriculum demanded, quite irrespective of whether she had obtained her instruction, and practical ability in Nursing, in one, two, or more Institutions. This would be following the analogy of the present system of medical education, which permits the student, so long as he can prove that he has passed through the necessary course of study, to obtain his experience and his certificates of study, therefore, at as many, or as few, recognised Hospitals as he pleases. It is true that, at present, it is more usual for him to remain throughout his student life at one Hospital alone, but recent developments make it probable that, in future, there will be a greater diversity of choice exhibited by students as to the general and special Hospitals at which they elect to obtain their practical experience.

INFANT MORTALITY.

This subject has been brought before the notice of the Government and of the public by a deputation of medical men which was received last week by the Home Secretary; and it is to be hoped that the strong representations and the serious facts to which they drew attention will receive adequate attention. It was shown that the mortality amongst infants nursed by their mothers was immensely less than amongst those who, owing to their mothers being compelled to work in factories, were brought up on artificial food. One speaker, taking the case of Staffordshire, showed that no less than three hundred infants' lives were sacrificed every year in that county alone in consequence of this want of maternal care. The *Medical Times*, in calling attention to this serious question, places it upon a ground which may appeal to the public at large, and which should attract Parliamentary consideration. Our influential contemporary points out that this mortality amongst infants means considerably more to the nation than appears on the surface; that it implies a very large amount of physical deterioration amongst those who survive; that this involves inferiority in production, and, therefore, an interference with trade, which must be most detrimental to the country at large. The proposal that no woman should be permitted to work in a factory for three months after her confinement, instead of only one month, which is the limit now enforced by the Factory Acts, appears to us to be a very valuable suggestion, and one moreover which might be attended by most beneficial results. At any rate, there can be no doubt as to the gravity of the present state of affairs, due, as it very often is, to the sheer necessity of women in factory districts neglecting their offspring in order to earn their daily bread.

THE ANTI-CORSET LEAGUE.

Nowadays, when we are accustomed to see Societies formed not only for the purpose of promoting various schemes, but also for the set purpose of opposing anything and everything, no one will feel surprised at the establishment of leagues in opposition to various articles of female dress. The Anti-Crinoline League which, it is believed, killed the proposed revival of that hideous article, is perhaps suggestive of the success which may follow the establishment of a society whose declared object it is to exterminate the Corset. There are not wanting many who consider that the present fashion of corsets is detrimental to health, and—which they consider still worse—detrimental to appearances. At the same time, we believe that the corset will die hard, if indeed it dies at all. If the new League can prevent tight-lacing, it will do a work of immense importance to the health of womankind. But common-sense and an improved knowledge of physiology is already bringing about a most wholesome reform in this matter, and those who are wearing the new Anti-Corset introduced by the Khiva Company, and who find it both comfortable and at the same time possessing all the benefits of the present style of corset, will perhaps feel that the urgent need of a League for its total abolition is not yet demonstrated.

The printers of this Journal beg to apologise for the careless mistake made in the first edition of last week's issue. The Editorial, p. 338, 5th line *et seq.*, had several lines transposed. Anyone returning a faulty copy to the Manager at the Offices shall receive a corrected copy in return.

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