

Margate? Surely it would be wisdom to sell our London consumptive hospitals, and with the proceeds, which should be considerable, for the sites alone are of great value, to establish hospital ships as sanatoria. The Metropolitan Asylums Board has already excellently appointed ships in which small-pox is isolated and treated. When phthisis becomes, as it surely must shortly become, a notifiable disease, why should not this most able body deal with it in the same manner?

A MUSIC AND DANCING LICENSE.

THE Passmore Edwards Cottage Hospital at Wood Green last week applied to the Licensing Committee of the County Council of Middlesex for a music and dancing license, which, we regret to say, was granted, after an assurance had been given that the patients should not be annoyed.

Music and dancing halls have their uses, but the limit of propriety is exceeded when institutions, intended for the benefit of the sick, are converted into amateur "Empires" and "Alhambras." Even if the devotees of Terpsichore and Apollo restrain their ardour within hearing of the patients, it is, in the highest degree, unseemly that such junkettings should take place in our "temples of pain," side by side with sickness and death. It is very regrettable that the Committee of the Wood Green Cottage Hospital have not sufficiently keen perceptions to enable them to recognize the incongruity of their action. Perhaps the supporters of the hospital will have something to say on the matter. We hope so.

WHY NOT?

MISS WEIR, M.D., daughter of Mr. J. Galloway Weir, M.P. for Ross and Cromarty, recently offered her services to the Government for the seat of war. She has received a letter from Lord Lansdowne, saying that while he much appreciated her public spirit, he is not at present prepared to allow women medical practitioners to join the military forces in South Africa. It is much to be regretted that Lord Lansdowne has refused Miss Weir's services on the ground of her sex. A selection of candidates there must necessarily be, but this should be based upon professional qualifications. Medical women have amply proved their capacity for their chosen profession, and on plague duty and in other difficult positions have rendered excellent service. The time has,

therefore, gone by to impose a sex qualification. They should be judged, in common with their fellow practitioners, on their merits.

It is strange how hard sex prejudice dies, although women have proved their ability for public work all along the line. Is it that men are afraid there is not enough work to go round, and mean to keep as much as possible in their own hands?

CHILDREN'S KITCHENS.

THE serious problem of how to deal with underfed school children was last week once again considered by the London School Board. The question is one which presents considerable difficulties. Beyond the fact that it is undoubtedly cruel to insist on close mental attention from hungry children it is obvious that anæmic brains cannot retain the instruction given, and that the expert and expensive teaching provided is therefore thrown away. But, how the difficulty is to be met is a point upon which there is considerable diversity of opinion, even amongst the members of the School Board, and there will, we imagine, be an even greater difference among the rate-payers. If it should be eventually decided that free meals, as well as free education, are to be provided for school children, we hope the expense will be met out of imperial, rather than local, funds. But the best means of meeting the difficulty would, we believe, be to establish kitchens—in the administration of which there would be no lack of voluntary service—close to the schools, at which the children could obtain both breakfast, and a midday meal, at a nominal cost. In this way the necessity would be most economically met, and also the responsibility of providing for the children they have brought into the world would not be wholly removed from the parents. Many respectable parents, whose own work takes them from home early, would, no doubt, gladly provide the pence necessary to procure for their children hot and nourishing meals, and the careless and neglectful should, if they are able, be compelled to do so, otherwise the middle classes will have to largely educate and feed their neighbours' children as well as their own, and frugal and thrifty persons who abstain from matrimony because they cannot afford it, will be compelled to support the children of the idle and improvident who carelessly embark on marriage without due consideration of the responsibilities involved. The injustice of this is obvious.

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