

Annotations.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies asserts that although there has been no opportunity of taking the sense of the House of Commons this year on the claims of women to direct representation, there have been unmistakable signs of progress in public opinion on the question of Parliamentary enfranchisement of women. We hope that definite expression will be given to this opinion at the next General Election. The enfranchisement of the nurse depends, to a great extent, upon that of her sex.

THE VALUE OF PATENT MEDICINES.

It is undeniable that the British Public loves quacks. It frequently prefers the half-trained nurse to the woman who knows her work, and it will barely close the door on an eminent consultant who has just given his valuable opinion on a difficult case before it turns to the nurse in attendance and inquires, "What do *you* think, nurse?" in a manner calculated to convey that in the inquirer's estimation the nurse's view of the case is worth that of all the consultants in London. It is not surprising, therefore, that patent medicines find a ready market, but we own to some astonishment at the price the recipe for a patent pill recently commanded at an auction in Tokenhouse Yard.

The recipe put up to auction was that for "Dr. King's dandelion and quinine bilious and liver pill," and the first bid was for £2,000. It eventually became the property of a member of the syndicate which has been running the pill for some time past, for the sum of £5,000. The recipe, in a carefully-sealed envelope with the official stamp of the patent medicine, will be handed over on the completion of the purchase on New Year's Day.

There is, therefore, justification for the belief that the public largely acts as its own doctor with the assistance of patent medicines, instead of obtaining skilled advice, but it is an open question whether the medical profession does not eventually benefit financially by the ill-health caused by indiscriminate dosing with patent medicines "with directions for use."

COSY CORNERS FOR MARRIED COUPLES.

The Married Couples' Quarters opened recently at the Newington Workhouse, Walworth, with other new buildings, demonstrate the thoughtful provision made by the Guardians of this Union for the respectable married poor

in their old age. A pathetic fact is that there are so few married couples to live in the quarters provided for them, a fact which is held by the Bishop of Rochester to prove that the conditions under which the poor live are not conducive to long life.

The new quarters provide for the accommodation of thirty-two persons. There is a large well-lit and well-warmed common room, and, in addition, each couple have a room to themselves comfortably (even cosily) furnished, lofty, well ventilated, and lighted by electricity. The Chairman, Mr. Thomas Cooksey, in performing the opening ceremony, remarked on the small proportion that old married couples bear to the Poor Law total, and said that nearly every individual who came under the care of the Board was absolutely friendless—surely a strong testimony to the strength afforded by human sympathy and comradeship. We are glad that a comfortable old age is assured to deserving married couples who are compelled to apply for Poor Law relief to the Walworth Union in their declining years.

A RECORD BENEFACTION.

It is reported that a Bill has passed through the Senate and House of Representatives, Washington, U.S.A., creating a general educational board. The Bill is intended to pave the way for a benefaction of over £2,000,000 to the American people. The donor is said to be Mr. John Rockefeller, of Standard Oil fame, and the details of his scheme are expected to be announced very shortly. We can conceive no better method of employing wealth than by increasing national educational facilities. Possessed of a good education, a man, or woman, is well equipped for the battle of life. Without it many talents lie waste. In our own profession the need of the endowment of educational agencies is at present acutely felt. We need our nursing colleges, where preliminary training can be given, where graduates can keep in touch with new methods, and where the teaching of pupil nurses can be focussed and systematised. While much has been done to perfect the educational advantages offered to men, those afforded to women at present lag far behind. The man (or woman) who endows a college of nursing will have the satisfaction of knowing not only that he is benefiting the sick, but that also he is assisting to place on a satisfactory educational basis one of the foremost professions for women.

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