

And it is from our own ranks that the women must come forward to supply the force which will move Parliament to take action on this question. That the leaders of the Registration movement should be accorded the support of hospital authorities will be generally conceded. We are hopeful that when hospital committees understand what we are asking for this support will be cordially extended.

Annotations.

ANOTHER NURSES' LEAGUE.

In another column will be found an article from the pen of Miss G. A. Rogers, Matron of the Leicester Infirmary, describing the formation of a League of the certificated nurses of that institution. Miss Rogers, who is one of the most highly-esteemed Matrons in the nursing world, has been engaged in professional work for over a quarter of a century. She is heartily to be congratulated on the latest evidence of her work for the common weal.

THE STRAITENED MIDDLE CLASSES.

From time to time the question of the efficient nursing of the middle classes, which is a most urgent one, is brought forward, and various schemes are suggested for dealing with the problem. A writer in *Hearth and Home* suggests that annexes for middle-class patients might be built in connection with the large general hospitals, and points out that two wards of twenty-five beds each, one for men and one for women, would provide accommodation for 500 patients in this connection. As regards the expense of building, it is proposed that the King's Hospital Fund for London should be asked for assistance, that millionaires should be appealed to for help for the building and part maintenance fund, and that the middle classes should be invited to contribute to the support of the beds on a provident basis, the payment ceasing entirely during sickness, as at this time the man or woman bread-winner is incapable of additional expenditure. It is believed that few women wage-earners—whose earnings are, of course, smaller than those of men—could not afford three guineas a year to make comfortable provision for the sickness which sooner or later must befall them. It is suggested that those who do not care to agree to the provident arrangement should be admitted on payment of £1 1s. to 30s. per week; subscribers, however, having the

right of priority. We think the fee suggested for non-subscribers is placed somewhat low, but any suggestion for dealing with the difficult question of the nursing of the middle classes will be welcomed by many. To be successful and acceptable, it must be arranged on a self-supporting basis. Possibly, supplementing hospital treatment, the services of a daily visiting nurse might be supplied within given areas to subscribers who do not need constant attention in their own homes. We endorse the suggestion of a provident scheme, because, of all sections of the community, the middle classes still retain to the greatest extent the desirable characteristic of sturdy self-respect, and any plan which would undermine this invaluable quality would be to be deplored.

MENTAL HOSPITALS.

"He has been taken away to the lunatic asylum"—what an appalling weight of woe the words convey, for to the average mind there is written up over the door of every asylum "Abandon hope all ye who enter here"; and even when the cloud lifts, and the husband, wife, or child is restored once more to thankful relatives "in his right mind," is it not always prejudicial to him that he has been in an asylum for the insane?

"What's in a name?" A good deal in this case, and we think it is time it was dropped in favour of one of more hopeful interpretation. It is ready to hand, for the word hospital inspires at once as much of hope as does lunatic asylum of hopelessness. What are our lunatic asylums but mental hospitals, for the remedial treatment of mental disease? And if they were so designated, not only would they be shorn of half their terrors, but, in consequence, patients would be brought to them for treatment in the early and curable stages of disease, instead of their maladies being hidden until they become chronic, and often irremediable. Already indications of a growing feeling in this direction are to be found in the "Mind Hospital" of the Hants County Council and the hospital at Croydon which provides for the care of the insane. It is time the term "lunatic asylum" was altogether abolished.

Insanity has been defined as a "prolonged departure from the individual's normal standard of thinking, feeling, and acting," the main divisions being: exaltation, depression, and enfeeblement of the mind. The least hopeful class is the third, 70 per cent. of the first and 90 per cent. of the second being recoverable."

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