

brought to the notice of the medical practitioners, and more especially those occurring among school-children, were investigated.

3. As far as possible all children belonging to families in which diphtheria cases had occurred, and all persons known, or likely, to have been in contact with them, were also examined, and, if diphtheria bacilli were found in their throats, isolated. Particular attention was paid to school contacts.

4. The means by which the disease is generally considered to be communicated to others by patients and contacts were explained to the school-teachers, and precautions taken to guard against its spread by infected articles.

5. The administration of antitoxin as a prophylactic to healthy contacts who showed the bacilli in their throats was encouraged, as was also the use of antiseptic mouth washes.

The results of these regulations were very beneficial in 1900, and again during a fresh outbreak in the spring of the following year.

Therefore, it seems that in diphtheritic epidemics, isolation; bacteriological examination, and the prophylactic use of antitoxin are the most efficient means of controlling the disease, though these should be aided by antiseptic mouth washes and the disinfection of contaminated articles in schools.

### Legal Matters.

#### WESTMINSTER TRAINING SCHOOL v. THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS ACTS.

Mr. Justice Kekewich had before him on Tuesday an adjourned summons, on the application of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Governors of the Westminster Hospital, of the Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, authorised in that behalf by the certificates of the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, which asked (1) that the trusts of the funds and property of the above-named charity, the Westminster Training School and Home for Nurses, might be declared; (2) that it might be declared that the service of and provision of nurses for the Westminster Hospital was the primary object of the said charity; (3) that the scheme for the regulation and management of the said charity might be settled by the court, and that such further relief, order, or direction might be given relating to the said charity as the court should think fit. The defendants were Sir Henry David Erskine and the present Managing Committee of the charity and His Majesty's Attorney-General.

Mr. Justice Kekewich directed the matter to be sent back to chambers to settle a scheme for the administration of the charity based on a scheme presented by the Attorney-General, such scheme to be submitted to criticism by the parties interested

### Nursing in the Far East.

It is interesting at the present time to know that Japan has an excellent corps of nurses, which might well serve as a model for European nations, the members of which are thoroughly qualified to care for the sick and wounded in war.

It is, says Dr. Roger Colomb in his recent work on the *Rôle de la Femme dans l'Assistance aux Blessés et Malades Militaires*, the idea of obligation to country, and the desire to help the soldiers, which inspires its admirable organisation. There is no religious basis for this remarkable movement; but neither is the principle of humanity excluded, since the idea of obligation and of help to soldiers implies the duty of tending wounded enemies with as much devotion and charity as one's own.

In a report on the Red Cross in the extreme East, presented to the Universal Exposition of 1900 by the Red Cross Society of Japan, Professor Nagao Ariga wrote:—

"A battle always consists in the encounter of the armies of the two belligerents, and, whichever side may win, there will always be wounded soldiers of one side who will fall into the hands of the other. It follows that, however strong and well-equipped a Power may be, neither side can be certain that some of its wounded will not fall into the hands of the enemy. According to the idea of obligation to country, and of help to the soldiers, they should be well cared for and treated. But how? The only method by which we can ensure that our own wounded soldiers who fall into the hands of the enemy are well treated is by caring ourselves for our wounded enemies when in our power. That is the true principle of reciprocity. Here we see united and blended the principles of humanity and patriotism, the love of men in general, and of one's country in particular."

It was in 1877 that the late Count Sano, Privy Councillor to the Emperor, who had studied the Red Cross Societies at the Paris Exhibition in 1867, and at Vienna in 1873, after the civil war of Kagashima, conceived, in conjunction with Viscount Ogiu, the idea of founding an association to help sick and wounded soldiers. This Association desired to send its members to the battlefield to care, under medical direction, for the wounded soldiers of the Imperial army. The Government and the Emperor at once gave the Society their support, and it was indefatigable in sending delegates to Europe to study the organisation of similar organisations. Baron Hashimoto, director of the medical service of the army, took part in the third international Red Cross Conference at Geneva in 1884, and thus prepared for the adhesion of Japan to the Geneva Convention. The Japanese Red Cross Society was founded in May, 1887, since which time it has continuously developed, increasing its resources and the number of its members.

One of its first duties was to ensure an efficient nursing service for armies in the field. A hospital established by Baron Hashimoto in November, 1886, for the training of women nurses speedily proved too small for the purpose, and was replaced by a larger building, which took the name of the Hospital of the Society of the Red Cross of Japan.

The objects of this hospital are:—

1. The instruction of male and female Red Cross nurses.

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