

ments were attended to, so that by the increased attendance of the children it was expected that the outlay would be recovered. Emphasising the need for the employment of a nurse, Alderman Timmis said that a district nurse who had spent two and a-half days in the schools had discovered there were 585 cases that required attention. He also said that at Liverpool 55,673 dressings had been made by the nurses in the schools in a year, and that Sir John Gorst had spoken at Stockport in favour of the medical examination of scholars. This, indeed, is a very important point. If a nurse attends a school and treats its scholars, though it be but for minor ailments, and decides who is suffering from infectious diseases, while her experience as a nurse has given her some useful insight into these matters, she acts as an amateur merely; neither by training nor by profession is she qualified to diagnose disease. In every case, whether in the care of hospital and private patients, out-patient departments, or in schools, she should work under medical direction. It is noteworthy that at Salford a medical man has been appointed to visit the schools at a salary of £400 per annum. In New York the schools are visited once a week by a medical man, and a nurse attends daily to carry out his instructions.

The thirteenth annual report of the Northern Workhouse Nursing Association shows a deficit on the year ending in December last of close upon £20. The deficit at the commencement of the year amounted to over £78, and the report goes on to state that, owing to the financial position, the Society has found it impossible to raise the number of probationers in training (greatly reduced during the last two years) to the former level. An appeal for subscriptions is made to all Boards of Guardians employing the Society's nurses. The report also comments on the fact that, while great improvements have been made of late years in the qualifications of the nurses of all grades, the great necessity for a corresponding improvement with regard to Masters and Matrons seems up to the present to have escaped the notice of Boards of Guardians.

The work of the Society is a most useful one, and we trust that it will receive the support which will enable it not only to maintain, but to increase, its sphere of usefulness.

The meeting on State Registration held at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin, last week, by the kind permission of the Fellows, was a memorable one. In the historic Hall were gathered the leading medical men, Matrons, Sisters, and nurses of Dublin, and by an overwhelming majority they declared themselves in favour of the principle of

State Registration. The Irish have so much energy that now they have once declared their opinion on the subject it will not be long before they put considerable vigour into the movement.

The impossible amount of work required of nurses in some workhouse wards and infirmaries, to which we refer in our Editorial remarks, is illustrated by a letter, published in the *Poor Law and District Council Journal*, from the nurse of the Boyle Infirmary, Ireland. Referring to the reasonable inquiry of a member of the Delvin Board of Guardians, "How can the trained nurse wash fifty patients?" she points out that the duties of an infirmary nurse include the management of the infirmary, the charge of clothing and of medical and surgical appliances, the distribution of diets and extras, and the administration of medicines.

She must dress the various surgical cases, feed the helpless and unconscious, change and keep clean the injured and paralysed, calm the delirious, be patient with the exacting, and firm with the refractory. She is required to be in readiness for the urgent operation or the admission of a serious case at a moment's notice, snatching her meals as time permits her out of the coarse regulation allowance which, *volens volens*, she must accept. She could hardly be envied by the meanest drudge.

Added to all this she is ever on the strain lest at some unprepared moment her next visitor may be an L.G.B. official who, under the keen searchlight of his criticism, reviews her work, and is only too ready to detect imperfections in it. As she flies from ward to ward she is painfully conscious of her inability to meet the pressing demands upon her energies.

It is not surprising if, under these circumstances, she falls back on untrained (presumably pauper) assistance for help in washing some of the less critical cases. Nevertheless, the right remedy is for nurses to demand an adequate staff to assist them. Over and over again the employment of pauper help has been proved undesirable, but, as the writer of the letter justly says:—"By all means let the sick poor have that care and sympathy which are the right of human suffering, but let it not be at the expense of health and the sacrifice of noble, useful lives."

Considerable support is being given by the Swiss Press to an original suggestion by Mme. Hilfiker-Schmid, a lady doctor, of Zurich, who asks that the State shall pass a law compelling all unmarried girls of the rich business class to devote one year to unpaid hospital or ambulance work. Such a scheme would, she declares, improve the condition of public hospitals and infirmaries, reduce taxation, and pro-

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