

"This Act shall not be construed to affect or apply to the gratuitous nursing of the sick by friends or members of a family, and also it shall not apply to any person attending the sick for hire, but who does not in any way assume to be a registered nurse."

What the advocates of Registration ask for is that it shall be made impossible for unqualified nurses to assume that they are qualified, and that it shall also be impossible for them to stand, as they do at present, on exactly the same basis as a nurse who has given three years to learning her work.

The public will then be able to obtain registered or unregistered nurses as they choose, but they will be protected, and only by a system of Registration can they be protected, from the fraudulent system at present in vogue of being compelled to pay to unskilled persons fees which will command thoroughly competent attendants.

### Annotations.

#### AN AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR LONDON.

An influential deputation of members of the Metropolitan Street Ambulance Association, which included the President, Mr. Reginald Harrison, Sir William Church (President of the Royal College of Physicians), Sir Thomas Barlow, Surgeon-General Keogh, C.B., Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Richard Temple, Colonel Sir Herbert Perrott, C.B., and others, was received last Monday by the General Purposes Committee of the London County Council in reference to the ambulance question. The deputation was introduced by Sir William Collins, and presented resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting of the Association. The members of the County Council present showed great interest in the subject.

The progress of the movement for securing an efficient ambulance service for London was last week demonstrated at the general meeting of the Association at 20, Hanover Square, when Mr. Reginald Harrison, who presided, was supported by many representatives of the medical profession. In a report by the Secretary (Dr. Arthur James) it was stated that 104 out of the 118 members of the London County Council were well-disposed to the establishment of a public ambulance service. Many large towns had already a proper system of horse or motor ambulances, but London, with its 15,000 street casualties annually, was still

dependent on the out-of-date hand-cart, with the result that 70 per cent. of the cases were conveyed to the hospitals haphazard in cabs and carts. Dr. Cox explained the method adopted in New York, and Sir William Church then moved a resolution declaring that there was urgent need of organisation of an improved ambulance service, summonable by telephone, and provided with more rapid transport. They thought the fire brigade the best body with which an ambulance service should be united, because such a scheme would be by far the most economical. As a physician, he knew that the present system, by which patients came to the hospital in cabs, did not in many cases give them the best chance of survival. Mr. Timothy Holmes, consulting surgeon to St. George's Hospital, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. John Tweedy (President of the Royal College of Surgeons) proposed a resolution indicating the London County Council as the proper body to provide and maintain an efficient ambulance service. This was seconded by Sir Alfred Cooper, Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and agreed to.

#### THE CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR MISSION.

None of the multitude of charities in the metropolis are of greater value than those which have for their object the supplying of fresh air to London children of the poorer classes. The Children's Fresh Air Mission, which held its annual meeting last week under the presidency of Sheriff Sir Alfred Reynolds, in the crypt of St. John's Church, Clerkenwell, is one of those excellent societies, its object being to provide change of air for poor children in Holborn, Clerkenwell, and St. Luke's. The Chairman, in urging the claims of the Society, said he had seen what might be called the "homes" from which these children came, and he had seen their happy faces in the country. He had visited a room within 100 yards of the building where the meeting was being held, occupied by a mother and three children. The room was bare except for a heap of rags, and the stair-rails had been used for firewood. That morning his official duties had taken him to Brixton Prison, and he saw there five little brats who had been charged with sleeping out, wandering, and stealing coal; they were wizened and wretched-looking from want. He did not know if he should have stolen coal under similar circumstances, but he thought it probable. There

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