

organisation is being effected by taking the graduate nurse as the unit, and building up the profession from societies formed of such nurses. British nurses will be content with no less. Lastly, we may draw attention to the protestation of the editor of the *Hospital*: "Most certainly we do not intend to be ruled by outsiders." What are we to understand by "we" in this connection? From the point of view of nurses Sir Henry Burdett and the lay staff which conducts his paper are rank outsiders; who can no longer, now that nurses have their own organs in the press, play Sir Oracle, at least with any hope that their unprofessional policy will prevail.

### Annotations.

#### FEEDING SCHOOL CHILDREN.

It is more and more urged every day, says the *British Medical Journal*, that cooking should be made compulsory in schools—this on account of the homes and the health of the people. The great objection is the expense. We believe that the system suggested in the articles published last year might be made self-supporting; not only this, but the problem of underfed children would, at the same time, be solved. Let it be assumed that every child in the school, both boys and girls, learns cooking. The cooking classes would be held in the mornings, and the children would take turns to cook. The dishes selected would be of the most nourishing and simple kind, such as meat, vegetables, and pudding, or soup and pudding, or fish and pudding—those being selected which have the most nourishing properties for the price paid. Every child in the school would dine off that meal, paying a fixed sum; the underfed would get a good nourishing meal, while those who are properly fed would certainly not be worse off than if they dined at home. Those parents absolutely unable to pay could be assisted by those charitable organisations for feeding the underfed which now exist, but which necessarily must often pass over necessitous cases and feed undeserving ones. The whole thing would be carried on in a business-like way, accounts being kept by the mistresses in charge of the cooking classes, the children would learn to behave properly, and they should take turns to wait at table, and thus become skilled in domestic service.

#### A BENEFICENT ACT.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, which was passed through Parliament last Session, came into operation last week. It draws the net much more closely than has hitherto been the case around parents or guardians who by neglect, exposure, or active ill-treatment, cause children unnecessary suffering or injury to health. Injury may include loss of sight, or hearing, or limb, organ of the body, and any mental derangement, the maximum punishment provided in such cases being two years' hard labour. This term may be increased to five years' penal servitude where it is proved that the accused was directly or indirectly interested in any sum of money payable on the death of the child. Boards of guardians are empowered to subscribe to any association for the prevention of cruelty to children.

#### CARE OF CONSUMPTIVE PATIENTS

The Board of Delegates of the Hospital Saturday Fund Association at the next quarterly meeting will consider a report of the representatives on the National Committee for the Establishment of Sanatoria for Workers Suffering from Tuberculosis. The report, after referring to the estimated cost of the site, building, furnishing, &c. (about £50,000), states: "We trust the Board of Delegates will approve of the work already done, and will allow the moral support of the fund to have full influence in raising the necessary amount. We would strongly recommend that the Board agree to a donation of £500 towards the cost of building, on the understanding that the same shall not be paid until the Executive Committee are satisfied that the remaining funds will be forthcoming. We also recommend that at least fifteen beds be secured for the supporters of the fund. We hope that the increased accommodation will enable the fund to meet more adequately and fully the many applications received for sanatorium accommodation." It is not proposed that all the beds should be endowed and consequently appropriated by powerful organisations; there would be a considerable number of unendowed beds at the disposal of small societies and the public generally.

The provision of adequate sanatorium accommodation for persons suffering from tuberculosis in its curable stages is one of the most pressing needs of the present day, and money spent in helping to make such provision is money well spent.

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