

person was most objectionable in the sick room. She did not consider there were enough incompetent nurses to make drastic legislation a necessity. Increased accommodation in the hospitals would expedite natural processes, and nothing further was required. The public did not require any protection. They had the remedy in their own hands.

Incompetent nurses were not sent out from the London Hospital to the sick rich. She had not sent out the uncertificated to any extent, but if she had a nurse who had had five or six years' experience on the private staff and one in the hospital, uncertificated, more suited to a particular case, she should do it again, and select the nurse who was well up.

The proceedings then terminated, and the Committee adjourned until May 11th.

### The Progress of State Registration.

The Bill to Regulate the Qualifications of Trained Nurses and to provide for their Registration was down for its second reading on Monday, April 17th, but the business of the House did not permit of its discussion. Mr. Harry L. W. Lawson, the new member for Tower Hamlets (Mile End) has given notice to move the rejection of the Nurses' Registration Bill, so we presume that Mr. Lawson is voicing his constituents at the London Hospital rather than the nursing profession at large.

We hope, however, before the Bill is debated in the House of Commons that Mr. Lawson will acquaint himself with the views held and publicly expressed by the medical profession on this matter, as well as with the just demands of trained nurses all over the country who are working for the benefit of the community as much as for the honour and good name of the nursing profession.

### Irish Nurses' Association.

On the 14th inst. an interesting and instructive lecture on fevers was delivered by Dr. Moorhead, one of the visiting physicians of the Royal City of Dublin Hospital, to the members of the Irish Nurses' Association, at the rooms of the Association, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin. At the close of the lecture a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Sister Burke, seconded by Sister O'Clery, and conveyed to Dr. Moorhead by Mrs. Kildare Treacey, Lady Superintendent of Dublin Nursing Institute, who presided.

In response to a request from the Irish Nurses' Association Miss Studley, Principal of King's Swedish Gymnasium and Institute for Medical Gymnastics and Massage, gave an interesting lecture at her fine new gymnasium at 24, Upper Mount Street, illustrating the lecture by diagrams showing the effect on the spine of the adoption of bad positions during the period of growth. Miss Studley strongly urged the necessity of sound physical education, and concluded a most instructive lecture by a practical demonstration of Swedish medical gymnastic exercises and their use in the treatment of spinal curvature caused through muscular weakness.

### The Hygiene of the Home.

By A. J. BACON.

(Continued from p. 265.)

A hygrometer is an instrument consisting of two thermometers, one with a dry bulb and the other with its bulb wrapped in a piece of linen, which can be moistened. When this is done, the latter shows a lower reading than the dry bulb thermometer, and the greater this difference, the dryer the air in the room that is being tested. To be suitable for man's use, these readings should differ from 6 to 8 deg. in a room heated to 62 deg. These instruments are rather expensive. In searching round London for one at a moderate figure that he could recommend to his readers as a "working tool," the writer could find nothing cheaper than 14s, and many ran as high as a guinea and even two! Certain makers refused point blank to consider the possibility of producing an article at a more reasonable figure (for, after all, the whole apparatus merely consists of a pair of thermometers), so that it is with special gratitude to Messrs. R. and J. Beck, Ltd., of No. 68, Cornhill, E.C., that he mentions, that these gentlemen kindly consented to go thoroughly into the question, and, as a result, have enabled him to state that they are prepared to supply a plain but serviceable article for the sum of 6s., and 1s. 6d. extra if with a simple case for portable use. So important is this question, that none in charge of the sick should be without the means of testing the state of the air in this respect and the reader will no doubt feel grateful for the courtesy these City opticians have shown, for, when interviewed, they were making nothing cheaper than a guinea.

In connection with this question of the quality of the air we breathe, there is yet the important subject of the artificial light that is used, and its proper position in the room. The reader is probably aware that combustion is the chemical wedding of oxygen with carbon. Two products may result. Two atoms of oxygen joining one of carbon is the most general, and this compound is called carbonic acid gas (CO<sub>2</sub>); sometimes, however, there is not sufficient air to go round, as our American friends are fond of saying, and then each little oxygen atom has an atom of carbon to itself. The result is far less heat, despite a violent consumption of fuel and the production of a most deadly gas, treacherous because colourless and odourless, called carbonic oxide (CO). Close stoves, the ashpits of which are not kept thoroughly clear, or the grates of which are allowed to get choked with clinker, are very apt, under such conditions, to set up factories of this insidious combination, and then, if there be a damper in the flue-pipe, and it chance to be pretty well closed, woe betide the inmate of the room where this manufacture starts. Only the other day there was a case in the North of a whole working party of ladies getting

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