

Annotations.

LEAGUES OF NURSES.

The formation of Nurses' Leagues and the remarkable vitality exhibited by these Societies is a most encouraging feature of nursing organisation, and we commend to the Matrons and certificated nurses of those training-schools where such Leagues have not as yet been formed, the desirability of taking action in this direction. One word of caution is necessary—namely, that the members should keep the control of the Leagues, and with it their right of liberty of action, in their own hands.

A point which may be noted in connection with the formation of such Leagues is that they can scarcely exist without considering their duty not to their own members only, but to their profession at large, the natural expansion of organisation being through affiliation with the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses. By this means they are brought into direct communication with the International Council of Nurses, and through it with 8,000 of their colleagues in the United States of America, with the members of the German Nurses' Association, and it is probable before long with nurses in all our Colonies also. The question of the organisation of the profession is also one to which the Leagues cannot remain indifferent, and signs are not wanting that they appreciate their responsibility in this direction. It is only natural and right that these societies of certificated nurses should speak with no uncertain sound on a matter which so vitally affects them, and it is certain also that their views must carry the weight to which they are entitled, when expressed on such subjects as the question of the Registration of Nurses by the State.

NURSES FOR THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

The nursing of middle-class patients of moderate means has from time to time been discussed in nursing circles, for there is but one opinion—namely, that the stress of illness falls most heavily on this class of the community. For the poor there are the hospitals, where the best medical and nursing skill are available free. The rich can obtain the same skill by paying for it, but to the professional man earning £200 or £300 a year, the cost of one or two trained nurses in the house for a few months makes a big inroad into his income, and falls very heavily on a household already face to face with a large doctor's bill, and with

the additional expense of housekeeping entailed by the necessities of the invalid.

This was realised and discussed at a Conference of the Matrons' Council in 1898, when a paper dealing with the subject was read by the Hon. Secretary, Miss Breay, but, failing the appearance of a fairy godmother, the organisation of nurses for the middle classes seemed an impossible dream. Now, however, Mrs. Lewis-Hill, better known as Mrs. Ada Lewis, is establishing an institute for the supply of daily visiting nurses for the middle classes who cannot afford a resident nurse, at 62, Oxford Terrace, W. Should this succeed, the establishment of other similar institutes will follow. Mrs. Lewis-Hill has discovered a method of using her wealth which will bring more benefit to the community than the large majority of philanthropic schemes.

A LEAGUE AGAINST LICENSE.

Senator Berenger, who is described as the indefatigable champion of purity of public morals in Paris, sums up the *raison d'être* of the "League against the License of the Streets" in the following terms:—"It is open to everyone to have cholera or scab if he will, but he has no right to infect his fellow. We are not a squad of gendarmes, but a body of sweepers who seek to prevent the tender feet of women and children from stumbling in the filth."

The Senator is therefore determined to once more take the field against those journals which in the French capital flaunt obscene literature and scandalous advertisements before the public gaze, and he will place a report of actionable cases in the hands of the public prosecutor. It is probable that the crusade will also extend to the licentious songs which are far too common. The custodians of morals in this country exercise more effective control in the directions referred to, but even so, both the press and advertisements need more careful supervision in some directions. Further, Mr. William T. Stead, in the *Review of Reviews*, makes vigorous comment on a play now before the London public, which he asserts from "first to last assumes, suggests, and emphasises the great doctrine that promiscuous adultery is the natural and exquisitely amusing pastime of married men every springtime." We are glad to learn that the Bishop of London has drawn the attention of the Lord Chamberlain to the subject, for the purity of the stage is a matter of primary importance, and the somewhat arbitrary and erratic censorship exercised in this direction is distinctly puzzling.

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