

her time in medical and isolation wards, or work much in surgical wards, and in her three years does not get a just share of each. Much more attention must be given to systematising the curriculum, and the extreme importance of systematic instruction in the art of *practical nursing* should be insisted upon. We hear much of staphylococci and streptococci, and germs of all shapes and sizes; but how to sterilise the hands and *keep them sterile* many nurses neither know nor practise. Voluntary associations have their uses, but there are so many various vested interests in nurses' work from an economic point of view that without the strong arm of the law it is very difficult to get things just all round, and most difficult of all to have the training-schools work up to any definite standard. The same problems face us in the Antipodes which will have to be overcome in England, but in a less prejudiced degree. Here all labour is held in more honourable esteem than in Europe.

A COLONIAL NURSE.

Preparations, Inventions, &c.

ROBB'S SOLUBLE MILK FOOD.

Messrs. Alexander Robb and Co., of 79, St. Martin's Lane, W.C., whose Nursery Biscuits are so well known and extensively used, having been supplied to upwards of twenty Royal nurseries, have now placed upon the market a soluble Milk Food as a substitute for mother's milk where this is not available.

Everyone must agree that in ordinary circumstances the provision made by Nature is not only the best food for an infant, but its undoubted right. Circumstances arise, however, in which, owing to the health of the mother, or to a deficiency in the quantity or quality of her milk, feeding by hand becomes necessary. In such cases the most satisfactory substitute is one which, both in character and relative proportion, approximates most nearly to the composition of mother's milk. This, both chemically and physiologically, is closely attained by Messrs. Robb's Food.

A fact which should be noted in regard to the Food is that it is entirely free from such harmful ingredients as starch and cane sugar, starch being replaced by maltose and dextrin.

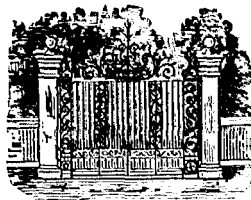
We can speak with personal knowledge of the value of Messrs. Robb's preparations for a delicate child, and can testify that such a child, for whom it was an extreme difficulty to find a food which it could assimilate, never once looked back after being put on Robb's biscuits.

The Soluble Milk Food is supplied in two varieties:—No. 1 for infants under four months of age, and No. 2 for those from four to six or seven months of age.

Dr. T. Ashcroft Ellwood, D.P.H., states that the Soluble Milk Food (No. 2) is especially adapted to the requirements of growing infants. He believes its use would be a prevention of many ailments to which artificially-fed children are prone.

Outside the Gates.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.



On the afternoon of Tuesday, October 24th, Miss Clifford, the President of the Union, presided over the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, in the new Central Hall at Birmingham, and there was a very large attendance of delegates from the branches and affiliated societies. Miss Clifford said that the various reports to be submitted, and especially the condition of the finances, showed that the year which had passed had been one of satisfactory progress. Philanthropy figured prominently in the programme of the year. With regard to the proposals for dealing with the unemployed, a resolution was forwarded to the Home Secretary by the Legislation Committee, asking the Government, in dealing with the proposals foreshadowed in the King's Speech, to make provision for the presence of women on the authorities to be established. In this connection it was significant that the Local Government Board, in the circular they had recently issued constituting District Committees, had stipulated that at least one person out of the eight to be co-opted must be a woman.

Miss Green, the Secretary, then read an interesting report on the central work of the Union, which was adopted, and Miss Janes one equally interesting from the branches, in which she incidentally alluded to two meetings which had been held to discuss State Registration of Nurses—one addressed by Miss Hughes, in which a resolution in favour was passed, and one by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson at Liverpool, at which no resolution was adopted.

Before this report was adopted, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick informed the meeting that the Select Committee on Registration of Nurses had reported in favour of the registration of nurses by the State, and asked if this important result might be recorded and inserted in the printed report. This was agreed to.

The report was adopted. In the discussion which followed, complaint was made by a delegate that the Union was not sufficiently practical, to which Miss Stables (Leeds) replied that if there were any truth in the complaint it was not the fault of the Union. They could only get to a certain point at present, and if they wished to go any further they must get a Parliamentary vote.* The President said their influence in touching, and perhaps altering, public opinion was perhaps the most important part of their work, although she did not wish in any way to minimise the importance of sending up resolutions.

The financial statement, which was read and adopted, showed a balance in hand of £71 1s. 11d., excluding a legacy of £100. The President said it was a long time since they had had a balance in hand, and it was really due to the increased interest of the branches. It was

* Seated near a pressman, we expressed the hope that Miss Stables' remark would be inserted in his paper, to which he replied: "Then you'll just be disappointed, because I'm agin it." Of such is the male reporter!

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