

It is, the medical officer remarks, impossible to overrate the significance of these figures, which clearly indicate a great loss of life from a preventable cause. While improved sanitation has reduced the death rate in London from 34.7 per 1,000 in 1881 to 16.6 in 1904, the deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 births, which was 148 in the former year, reached almost the same high proportion—viz., 144, in 1904. It is now well recognised that this heavy infantile mortality is due to ignorance on the part of the mothers as to the danger incurred by injudicious feeding, and it is hoped that the effort now being made in the direction of educating the mothers in the poorer classes will remove what is undoubtedly a blot upon our civilisation.

Whenever the "ladies'" papers have a spare corner it is apparently filled up by discussions upon the iniquities of trained nurses. Columns of late have been devoted in one of these fashion sheets to answering the question, "Does Professional Nursing Harden Women?" According to several voluminous writers, women enter hospitals made of "sugar and spice and all that's nice" and come out "made of snips and snails and puppy dogs' tails"; in other words they go in little angels and come out little d--ls. Why will people generalise on such a question? The unsympathetic nature is not to be softened by the sight of suffering any more than the woman of generous temperament is to be hardened by association with it. We know hundreds of trained nurses, and, with very few exceptions, know them to be, as a class, most kind and devoted to real sufferers. Perhaps sometimes they do get a wee bit out of patience with the tiresome, selfish, and exacting invalid; but, after all, trained nurses are only human.

The authorities at the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester, which contains 108 beds, have affiliated with the Croydon Borough Infectious Hospital, in order to enlarge the experience of their probationers by giving them an insight into infectious work. The plan is to send probationers in their second year to Croydon for six months' training, the Winchester Committee guaranteeing a continuous supply. They will, in this time, have experience in the nursing of diphtheria and of enteric and scarlet fever, with their various complications. We learn that the nurses are very keen upon the plan, and it is hoped that it will prove a success both for Winchester and Croydon. It is by such schemes of affiliation that

we must look for a thorough course of education for the nursing pupils of the future, they will thus be afforded as complete a training as possible before applying to a Central Board for recognition as Registered Nurses.

Miss Florence K. Pratt, who was a few months ago selected from eighty candidates as Lady Superintendent of the Jenny Lind Infirmary for Sick Children at Norwich, appears to be winning golden opinions from the Committee, who commended her work highly at the recent annual meeting. We always, in looking through annual reports of hospital work, keep an eye on what is said of the Matron and nursing staff, and are often disappointed to find that their arduous labours receive neither mention nor thanks. This does not show a just sense, on the part of those responsible for annual reports, of the importance and value of good nursing to the sick.

Sometimes we think Queen's Nurses and other district nurses will get quite spoilt with all the praise showered upon them, but apparently they continue the even tenor of their way—giving, giving—looking for but little return, and quite unmoved. To read slighting remarks made at a District Nurses' Association meeting about the nurse, is so unusual that we are inclined to agree with the Chairman who called a speaker to order, under such circumstances. The complaint was that the nurse paid too much attention to people who could afford to engage professional services and neglected the poor whose demands the nurse was paid to attend to.

Speaking at the opening of the extension of the headquarters of the Scottish branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute in Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, the Countess of Eglinton referred in terms of warmest praise to the work of the Institute and its nurses, she said they had before them a scheme to provide nurses in the outlying islands and remote districts in Scotland. Their further requirements were a home of rest and convalescence for Scottish Queen's Nurses, a substantial pension fund, and an increased sick fund: this last for the purpose of assisting nurses who break down in health in the performance of their duties. Of course they recognised that this could not be accomplished all at once. But if they went on steadily year by year, and little by little, perhaps no very distant date might see the completion of this work, namely, the adequate provision for

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