

Nurses' Social Union.

The Triennial Fête of the N.S.U. was, by the kind invitation of Sir Edmond and Lady Elton, held at Clevedon Court on Friday, May 29th. The weather was perfect, and the beautiful gardens and terraces looked their best in the bright sunshine, and the arrangements so successfully made by the members of the Committee passed off admirably. At the meeting the chair was taken by Mrs. Martin Gibbs, who expressed thankfulness that the skill and experience of trained nursing was now within reach of the poor.

The Nurses' Social Union was founded in 1902, and was designed to uphold a high ideal of work and thought.

Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute of Nurses, then spoke on "The Nurse as Citizen." She said they must remember that until comparatively recent years the whole of nursing was done by religious Sisters, and the very veil the nurses now wear is a remnant of their dress. Nursing then fell into other hands without religious influence, and nothing could be worse than its state in 1830. But, thanks to Miss Nightingale, the doors were opened to English women, and proper scientific training inaugurated. Miss Hughes alluded to the grave responsibilities attaching to the profession of nursing. Life and death were sometimes in the nurse's hands, and that should make them think seriously, and appreciate the importance of little things. Miss Hughes, in concluding, mentioned that in putting on the uniform, they took up the position of a band of people who undertook to do certain duties, and they ought to be loyal to one another, and to their uniform. She also spoke of the good work done by the Cottage Nurse and by Union Infirmaries. After the usual votes of thanks, the nurses were photographed. During the afternoon the Somerset Morris Dancers, whose presence was due to the kindness of Lady Belairs, performed on the tennis court in their quaint and old fashioned dresses. There was a good exhibition of nursing appliances, lent by Messrs. Ferris, of Bristol, and Messrs. Bailey, of London, in which the nurses were very interested. The visitors, who numbered 230, were district nurses 84, union 17, hospital 50, private 73, and 6 retired nurses. They came from all parts of Somerset. Accompanied by Mrs. Portsmouth Fry, Local Organiser, were 20 nurses from the Weston-super-Mare Branch.

ELSIE McCAUL.

New Preparations and Inventions.

GLAXO.

This food, for infants and invalids, has, we learn, been in use for more than three years, and has become so widely used that its proprietors have determined to bring its advantages more prominently to the notice of trained nurses. In many ways, they have shown a wise discretion, because every month infants' foods are rushed upon the market, are tried and found wanting, and disappear. Many of these preparations which are submitted to us are so lacking in some essential constituent that we decline to notice them in these columns. We were encouraged to investigate Glaxo, then, because of the unusual fact to which we have referred; and we find much to justify the claims made for it. Analysis proves that Glaxo possesses a definitely larger proportion of proteids and of salts than human milk contains, whilst the fat and carbohydrates are almost in the same proportions in the latter as in Glaxo. Then, we find the further important facts that Glaxo, which is a finely granulated powder, on the addition of boiling water, forms a milky fluid which is perfectly sterile, and therefore free from the germs by which cow's milk is so often infected; that it is taken well by infants and invalids, even when other preparations disagree; that it possesses, as its analysis shows, high nutritive qualities; and that infants fed upon it alone not only thrive but rapidly gain weight. Our readers can fully estimate the importance of the facts we have mentioned, and will agree with us that Glaxo is worthy of a careful trial. We have asked a hospital physician, who is good enough to report to us on such matters, to test this food in his practice, and to favour us with his opinion of its practical usefulness, and we shall be glad to know also what our readers' experience of it may prove to be.

THE USHER-SOMERS THERMOMETER.

The Usher-Somers Clinical Thermometer, manufactured by Southall Bros. and Barclay, Ltd., of Birmingham, is designed on an entirely new principle. The normal point is coloured red and marked as 0, and the degrees are marked 1, 2, 3 below this, and consecutively from 1 to 10 above this. It is thus an easy thermometer to understand and to read, and should be of special service to midwives who have never mastered the ordinary clinical thermometer, and who now, late in life, find themselves enjoined by the rules of the Central Midwives' Board to take the temperature of their patients. Presumably, they would report that the temperature was one degree, two degrees, and so on, above or below the normal.

The method of using the thermometer, and of registering on a chart the temperature recorded, is the same as in the clinical thermometers in ordinary use. The price is 3s. 6d., and charts for use with the thermometer are supplied by the same firm. We specially commend the thermometer to the notice of Inspectors of Midwives and to Local Supervising Authorities.

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