

to combat this most dangerous ignorance, and to teach true purity, which is surely the addition to virtue of knowledge? How is it to be done? First, the district nurse can attack the individual; she can ask the mothers about the children's health in these respects, and point out how trouble can be detected and checked by careful supervision, and where there are girls, could she not ask the mother if they are prepared for womanhood's development, and if she finds they are not, offer to undertake the preparation herself? I know how short the nurse's time is, but this is women's work, and, to my mind, is so intensely important, so far-reaching in its results, as to be imperative. Many mothers will be most grateful to the nurse, and it is an opportunity for imparting knowledge to the woman herself, and of showing her how good it would be for some such teaching to be given in the schools. Secondly, could not some one approach the Head Mistresses' Association and speak very plainly, offering to talk to the mothers, if this could be arranged, or send a letter on the subject to those who could not attend for this purpose? And could not the question be brought before lady school managers, where they still exist! The junior teachers are, I know, most anxious to be allowed to teach on those subjects in which they themselves have been instructed.

This sort of ignorance means deterioration, not only of physical motherhood, but of moral, since so false an idea of purity is engendered, and personally I would go further and ask that to girls of seventeen and over, very plain speaking on sex questions should be given, and so the veil of mystery which has so lurid an attraction, and leads so often to such persistence in evil, should be withdrawn, and God's ordinance and law, perfect in Divine purity, should be understood by those to whom the power of parenthood is given. I am certain the result would be good. In all manner of side ways, all more or less undesirable, knowledge is sought, girls even consulting boys on the point. Many girls fall through utter ignorance, and because common decency has never even been taught them, and they have not that barrier between themselves and ruin. Surely every pure-minded Englishwoman should do her utmost, for her womanhood's sake, for her country's sake, for God's sake, to right this wrong, and see that our girls, set in the midst of so many and great dangers, know what to avoid, and may determine with God's help to keep their garments always white.

"Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control,
These three alone lead life to sovereign power."

And we know that from pure knowledge springs self-reverence, compelling self-control. That this knowledge should be more widely extended is what I would ask of nurses, to whom God, from whom all knowledge comes, has given so unique an influence, and so great an opportunity of teaching true purity. Great indeed will be the reward, since "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

BERYL RUSSELL.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

At the last Court of Governors of the Middlesex Hospital profound regret was expressed for the death of the late Earl of Derby, a true friend, who had been for seventeen or eighteen years on the Board, and always came forward liberally in the hour of need. It is intended to erect a tablet in his memory in the chapel of the hospital, and the secretary would, it was said, be pleased to receive subscriptions for it. It was further reported that the great value of the new observation wards had been proved during the past six months, and lying-in wards had been successfully re-established and in use since the 1st inst. A liberal contribution of £2,500 towards their cost had been made by the trustees of the Zunz Bequest. The special appeal for funds for the cancer research laboratories had not been so successful as they hoped it would be, and the Board earnestly urged that they should be helped in carrying on this great and beneficent work, for which they required £2,500 annually.

At a Conference of the National Union of Public Health Authorities, held last week at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., Alderman Dr. H. Newton, of Newcastle, the President, who presided, said he had long felt the necessity for the organisation of the public health service, and had every confidence that the realisation of the hope was great with possibilities for assisting to solve those serious sanitary problems which, like a canker, were gnawing at the heart of the nation. It was decided to present a petition to Parliament urging the necessity of early legislation in order to stamp out tuberculosis, both human and bovine, in England and Wales. Sir William J. Collins, M.P., delivered an interesting address on "The Principles of Sanitary Legislation," and Dr. H. Scurfield, of Sheffield, read a paper on "The Advisability of Securing Uniformity in the Methods Adopted for the Regulation of the Milk Supply of the Whole Country," in which he advocated that instead of the present system of the registration of cowkeepers a system of annual licences should be substituted, renewable only if the premises were kept in a sanitary condition.

The Rev. C. Silvester Horne, who presided at a meeting of the National Social Purity Crusade, held in London last week, said that the League was a new organisation formed to meet an evil which

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