

It is suggested that a conference of hospital managers, to consider the effects of the Insurance Bill, shall take place, so that a combined policy may be adopted. This would be wise—as there is no doubt combination between the great voluntary charities has for long been greatly needed, and the present cut-throat competition should, by some wise co-operation, be minimised. At present disorganisation produces a great loss of valuable clinical material being used and treated to the best advantage—both for the patients and in the training of medical practitioners and nurses. Mr. Bernard Shaw has said that “every charity is an excuse for a neglected social duty.” No doubt, if all were permitted to do their social duty much less charity would be required. But when one realises the absurdity of excluding women (so full of social zeal), from the management and expenditure of charitable funds—it is high time the whole system of charitable relief was taken in hand and co-ordinated.

The Duke of Norfolk has consented to open on February 12th the new out-patients' department of the Worthing Hospital, which has been erected by public subscription to the memory of the late King Edward, at a cost of £3,000.

Sir John Barker, Bart., hon. treasurer of the Bishop's Stortford Hospital, has received a donation of £1,000 for that institution from Sir Charles Gold, who desires that it shall be regarded as a memorial to the late Lady Gold, who was a native of the town of Bishop's Stortford. Sir Charles also expresses a wish that some part shall be devoted to the needs of child patients.

HANDBOOKS ON DISINFECTION.

Messrs. Newton, Chambers & Co., Ltd., Thorncliffe, near Sheffield, ask us to state that they will gladly send their series of handbooks on disinfection to readers of this journal on receipt of a postcard. “Medical Izal” contains reprints from the principal medical journals, of papers dealing with the use of Izal in the treatment of phthisis, puerperal sepsis, tropical dysentery, enteric fever, cholera, and tinea favosa capitis. “Practical Disinfection” deals with the domestic uses of Izal. “The Veterinary Handbook” is full of useful information for owners of horses, dogs, cats, poultry, &c. The last of the series, “Izal in the Dairy,” apart from its purpose as an advertisement is a really useful handbook at a time when the conditions of milk production are claiming so much attention.

WELCOME HELP.

The President of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with gratitude the donation of £1 from Mrs. Andrews with kind wishes for “A Happy New Year to State Registration and the Nurses' Protection Society,” and 3s. 6d. from Mrs. Maxwell St. John, R.R.C.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

At the splendid performance at the Coliseum, on Sunday, in aid of the impoverished grand-daughters of Dickens, there was a rollicking scene, in which Mr. Cyril Maude, splendidly made up, played “Sairey Gamp” to the “Betsy Prig” of Mr. Fred Emney. It is to be hoped a handsome sum of money was the result of the kind participation of so many popular players in the performance.

In a survey of woman's activities in 1911, which appeared in “Woman's Platform,” in the *Standard* on Monday, it is stated that Dr. Sun-Yat-Sen has promised the women of China the vote under the new régime he seems powerful enough to establish. In the surprise this announcement has caused, the opinion of Chinese women has been sought on this extraordinary break from tradition. It appears that no fewer than a hundred papers, written by Chinese women for women readers, are preaching the women's movement in the Celestial kingdom to-day.

In Russia, 1911 was the first year of women's industrial organisation on a national scale. The Women's Educational Congress in December in St. Petersburg, and the mass meetings in the same month, have drawn from the Government the reluctant promise of permission for women lawyers to practise at the Bar.

By the death of Dr. Sophia Jex Blake, who must ever be had in honour as a pioneer in the movement for medical education of women forty years ago, there passes away one of those in the van of the movement for women's progress. The fight of the women who won the right to enter the medical profession was prolonged and stern. The doors of medical colleges were not readily opened to them, and when in 1864 Miss Jex Blake, who had previously studied in America, sought a means of obtaining a British medical qualification she found that the Charter of the University of London in force at that time had been purposely worded to exclude women from entering for its examinations. She then applied to the University of Edinburgh, which refused to take action on her individual application, but when several other ladies united with her, women were ultimately admitted to separate classes. At first little notice was taken of them, but hostility was aroused when the women attained greater success than the men. Rowdy behaviour, persecution, abuse, law suits followed, and the University ultimately refused to allow the ladies to graduate, but, undaunted, Miss Jex Blake was largely instrumental in establishing the London School of Medicine at the Royal Free Hospital, and in 1877 obtained her M.D. degree at the University of Berne. Those women who now enter the medical profession owe a deep debt to those who won this right for them by hard fighting.

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