

enabling the invalid to have the services of the Nurse during the night.

MISS ANNESLEY KENEALY then gave a most interesting and bright address on "What women are doing in the cause of health." At the outset she spoke of the work of the District Nurse. Many people, she said, would hardly see the connection between the work of such a woman and the subject upon which she had come to address them. She, however, was of the opinion that District Nursing was a very valuable adjunct to the cause of health. The Nurse carried relief to the sick and comfort to the relatives; but she also acted as a missionary of health, and spread the gospel of fresh air, proper food, and sunshine. She also carried the good tidings of the value of soap and water. The practise of the use of this article was, she had found, not very popular, but it was of infinite value. Some time ago she was passing through the Wigan Infirmary, and on visiting the children's ward she saw a little girl about five years old in a great passion with one of the Nurses who had grievously offended the small mite. The child was making all kinds of threats, and the one which it seemed to consider more deadly than the rest was, "When I get home I'll tell my mother you washed me three times a day."

Speaking of the West Hartlepool District Nursing Association, Miss KENEALY said she was pleased to find that the Committee had locally carried the Eight Hours' Bill. Public feeling was much divided upon the eight hours' question, but, in her opinion, the movement was very desirable so far as Nurses was concerned. (Applause.) People who had never done any Nursing could not know anything of the arduous character of the work, or of the bad effect on the constitution of the oppressive air of the sick chamber, and the mental anxiety caused in serious cases; and certainly if anyone needed an eight hours' day it was the Nurse.

They had seen how Members of Parliament had waxed eloquent on the terrible trials of miners, factory workers, etc., but they never yet found an M.P. who had a word to say for the Nurse. Of course that was because the women had no votes yet. (Laughter and hear hear.) When the day did come that the women had votes they would soon see plenty of M.P.'s come forward willing to fight the battle of the Nurses. (Laughter and prolonged applause.) The non-electoral has no political champions. In the near future we shall have the House of Commons held spell-bound by eloquent members who will wax romantic over descriptions of devoted self-sacrificing women toiling fourteen hours daily in a noxious fever-laden atmosphere, and suffering terribly in their health as a consequence. They would (she repeated) all hear it a few years hence, so she would not attempt to anticipate the heroic appeals that would be used. (Re-

newed laughter and applause.) She would just say that Nurses deserved all the eloquence M.P.'s could give them, for theirs was a hard and, at times, a most thankless task.

In novelettes the Nurse was depicted as a young lady busied in the tasteful arrangement of flowers, and spending many leisure hours in smoothing the pillow of some good looking male patient, who subsequently married her. (Laughter.) She had never had any experience of this sort; but she remembered how horror-stricken a Limehouse "docker," who was one of her patients at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was to see her scrubbing and dusting. "Lor, Miss," he said, "how hard you work! If us dockers had to work so hard for so little pay we would be 'cut' to-morrow. (Laughter.) You just take my advice—go out on strike and you'll get all you want." (Renewed laughter.) Nurses had never acted on such advice, and she thought it was very much to their credit that they had not done so.

MISS KENEALY then went on to commend the recent appointments of women as Sanitary Inspectors and workers under the Shop Hours and Infant Life Protection Act. She also commended Mr. ASQUITH's action in allowing women to act as Factory Inspectors, and was glad to see that they were appointed at fair salaries. It was a matter for regret that in some cases the holding by women of municipal offices, was held sufficient reason for reducing the scale of salary. It appeared to her that a woman doing the same work as a man, had a right to the same emolument. (Applause.) Miss KENEALY thought that, broadly speaking, women's talents and taste lay more in the direction of humanitarian and philanthropic movements; and tended more to artistic and literary channels, as opposed to men's more commercial instincts. She thought that hygiene and sanitation was particularly suited as an opening for women's energies, and she suggested that when women advance the social health and moral conditions of a people, they are doing more for the race than when a great statesman ratifies an important commercial treaty. Herbert Spencer says: "The Industrial Empire will belong to the people who are best nourished and who are made most capable of resisting the attacks of disease."

MISS KENEALY went on to speak of the great work that has been accomplished by the National Health Society, under the Secretaryship of a woman, Miss Fay Lankester.

Mention was made of the good work accomplished by the various County Councils, through women lecturers in different branches of health-teaching, and Miss KENEALY stated that the National Health Society first suggested that these subjects should be included in the Technical Education Scheme.

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