

meetings at Newport, has, in consequence of the epidemic, transferred its headquarters to Ryde.

DISTRICT and Private Nurses are extremely busy, and, in some cases, are at work both by day and by night. In one of the large schools three Nurses are engaged, there being several pupils ill with typhoid. The Town Council has voted a sum of £50 to provide Nurses for the poor, and their action has been much appreciated. Diphtheritic throats are prevalent, and some cases of true typhoid are complicated by severe throat symptoms. The whole outbreak points to a serious condition of the sanitary arrangements.

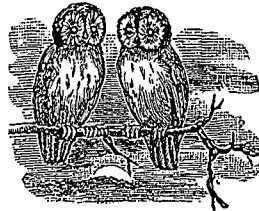
A SERIOUS difficulty in estimating the number of cases has been found in the fact that notification has not been the rule at Newport. Indeed, there has been a serious prejudice against notification among all the medical men of the town. Acting under the advice of the Government Inspector, Dr. THOMSON, a temporary system of notification has been adopted, and it is hoped that, by this means, some important light may be thrown on the cause of the epidemic.

MISS ANNESLEY KENEALY is at present giving a Course of Lectures in the Isle of Wight on Hygiene and Practical Sanitation. Her lectures at Newport have been specially crowded and appreciated, and a general feeling is expressed that "the Course of Lectures has come just at the right time." At a Lecture given by her last Friday on Water Supply, the Town Hall was crowded with a very intelligent and interested audience; and many questions were asked at the close with regard to the precautions that should at present be taken with regard to water, and as to the best mode of disinfection in the sick-room. By special request, Miss KENEALY is to give a Lecture at Newport on the Nursing and Care of Typhoid Fever patients, and the precautions which are necessary during convalescence from this disease. Much interest has been expressed in this forthcoming lecture, which it is hoped will give some teaching of which the people stand badly in need.

THE authorities have engaged the services of the eminent sanitary engineer, Mr. BERNARD LATHAM, and his Report will be awaited with impatience and interest, the epidemic having already lasted nearly five weeks, and, instead of showing signs of abatement, continuing to increase both in severity of cases and in numbers. A very serious anxiety is beginning to be felt by the townspeople not only of Newport but of neighbouring towns in the Isle of Wight. It is hoped that before long some explanation of the epidemic will be forthcoming, so that remedial measures may be adopted.

Matrons in Council.

A UNIFORM STANDARD OF EDUCATION.



DEAR MADAM,—I regret that I was unable to be present to hear Mrs. Strong's paper on a "Plea for uniformity of education for Nurses," as I hold somewhat strong and old-fashioned views on the subject. But I am glad to see that you have been good enough to open your columns for discussion on this important matter—especially as with your advanced views on the Nursing question, you will have scope, I do not doubt, to pulverise, from the editorial chair, what will appear to you the crude views of old-fashioned Matrons. Nevertheless, I must run the gauntlet of your progressive policy. Well! I will ask your readers one question. Are the Nurses of to-day—the modern Nurses—better than those that preceded them by a decade? (I am not alluding to the scrubbers who acted as caretakers of the sick and ward furniture thirty years ago), but to the first fruits of the women who entered our Hospitals some fifteen years past and who, while giving lavishly of their health, strength and intelligence, yet effected vast reforms in Nursing the sick—*without attending one scientific lecture.*

Are the Nurses of to-day the equals of their predecessors, in cleanliness, neatness, and sobriety; are they more obedient, unselfish, and devoted to the care of the sick? Study them where you choose—in the ward, in the home, in the street. From my long and somewhat varied experience, I do not hesitate to state emphatically that the so-called highly trained be-medaled Nurse of 1894, is inferior in every possible way in quality to the Nurse of the last decade. Why? The old Nurse was a clinical observer, and acquired her knowledge and her splendid solidarity of character, from personal observation, and self-denial. The new Nurse is a thing of shreds and patches (as betrayed by her so-called uniform), with a preconceived opinion, gathered fromskimming works on anatomy, physiology, and therapeutics, the phraseology of which tends to crack her ill-educated brain, as the pronunciation does her jaw, and whose notion of discipline is circumscribed by the "sanctity of individuality," and the theory that "dignity of life" is comprised in self-indulgence. Let us make an end speedily of the force of so-called Nurse training, now rampant in our so-called schools. The smattering of knowledge now given, is but a sham, and a very dangerous element, distracting the Nurse from the true *raison d'être* of her existence, the tending of sick and suffering human beings, and all that pertains to their solace and their comfort.

If you were very ill, dear Madam, how many modern Nurses do you know whom you would desire to tend you? Personally, I should clamour for my old faithful Scottish Serving-maid.—Yours truly,

"AN OLD-FASHIONED MATRON."

[We hope that some of our readers will discuss this important matter. We fear it is impossible to disagree entirely with our much respected correspondent.—ED.]

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