

scriptions had dropped off, and they had run into debt with their Treasurer, but his experience—and he had had the honour of being Treasurer for 37 years—was that, when a need could be shown, the public came to the front and the money was found. He was not at all nervous about finding the money, because he believed the public would always come forward and contribute in a case of real need. He had spoken as he had done because he did not wish the subject to drop; indeed, he would go further, and say that they ought to at once proceed to make arrangements to properly house their working staff.

The particulars of a recent epidemic of typhoid fever at Kirkcaldy are published, and the story is not unfamiliar. An outbreak of illness in a local dairy, but no case of specific fever notified until nine days after the disease had begun to spread. The supply of milk from the infected dairy thereupon stopped, and the premises disinfected; after which the sale of milk was again carried on for a fortnight, when the number of cases had increased to 154, and the sale of milk was again stopped. Later on, the number of patients was 181, and all of them had taken milk from the same dairy; 19 of the patients died. After strict investigation by the medical men and sanitary authorities, the conclusion came to was "that the milk had become directly infected from the hands of the milkers in the process of milking." And the lesson it is to be hoped they have learned is that, when an outbreak of enteric fever is traced to a dairy-farm, it is the source of the water supply and the condition of the health of the employés that is to be enquired into, in place of the more customary lime-washing of premises.

The pilgrim season has just set in across the Channel, and, during the next few weeks we shall hear of "guaranteed miracles" wrought at Lourdes by the healing waters of its famous grotto, and by faith and prayer. A few days ago, the seven or eight trains specially set apart for the transport of pilgrims and of the sick steamed out of the busy Orleans Railway terminus in Paris, laden with a pitiful freight of suffering humanity, and followed by the "white" train, reserved for patients whose critical, not to say hopeless, condition requires special care and attention. That singularly graphic writer, M. Emile Zola, in his book on "Lourdes," has made people familiar with the pain and pathos this "white" train represents conveying poor creatures in the last stage of various diseases to Lourdes, in the devout hope that a cure may, by miraculous interposition, be effected. There appears, evidently, to be something out of touch with the spirit of these modern times in this departure of pilgrims and invalids from a bustling Paris railway terminus for a particular locality in France, where cures are believed to be obtainable otherwise than by medical skill and science. One is quite aware that there is no slandering or hypocrisy; at all events, not so far as these ailing people are concerned, who confront the fatigue of a long journey in order to kneel before Our Lady of Lourdes and plunge their bodies in the so-termed miraculous waters.

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 Economical in use, and goes far in brewing.

## Hours of Hospital Nurses.

As we announced last week, in discussing the question of a compulsory eight hours day for Nurses training in the Hospitals of Victoria, Australia, a deputation of Hospital authorities have waited upon the Premier of the Colony, for the purpose of protesting against the suggestion, and of representing their views. The following report of the deputation will doubtless prove of interest to all engaged in the training of Nurses, and the fact that the Premier has thought well to suspend the institution of a compulsory eight-hours day for six months, so that he can enquire into the matter, and in so doing hear the opinion of the Nurses themselves, is a decision which we heartily commend.

### DEPUTATION TO THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA.

A deputation, numbering five-and-twenty gentlemen, who take an interest in the metropolitan and provincial charitable Institutions, waited on the Premier on July 31st, for the purpose of protesting against the decision of the Government not to give a State subsidy to any Institution in which Nurses were engaged on duty for more than the hours stipulated in the Factories' Act for persons under the Act for 48 hours a week.

The Hon. Geo. Godfrey, M.L.C., briefly introduced the deputation, stating that it was representative of all the Institutions in the Colony.

Mr. F. R. Godfrey, President of the Melbourne Hospital Committee, stated that the first objection which the charitable Institutions took to the allotment of the vote was that really no complaint had been made by the Nurses themselves. The House Committee of the Melbourne Hospital had regularly visited the wards, and no complaints had been lodged with reference to the hours the Nurses were employed. The management of the Institutions should be left as far as possible in the hands of the ladies and gentlemen who gave a large amount of time and trouble to the work. They must know more, and must have more interest in the work of the Nurses than any outside, and they should not be trammelled by any hard conditions. The question of the increase of expenditure was a most important point. The increase in the number of persons who had to do the work meant that more money would be required, and, as the Government was insisting on this, it was necessary that it should provide the extra funds. The Melbourne Hospital was in debt to the extent of £10,000, and he had no doubt that other Institutions were in a bad position. The increase in wages alone which would be entailed by insistence on the condition regarding the hours, would be £1,300, besides the cost of uniforms and accommodation. Mr. Godfrey went on to say that Parliament had voted certain moneys for public Institutions, and had given the distribution of this into the hands of the Government, but he was not aware that Parliament had given powers to the Government to impose such hard conditions. In the Factories' Bill, introduced last session, it was proposed to introduce a clause dealing with charitable Institutions, but that clause was cut out. When the Bill was re-introduced and passed this session there was nothing in it to show that Hospitals should be regarded as factories. Therefore, he thought the Government had

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