

receive and provide for a larger number. Already some Armenian orphans whom Dr. Barnardo had previously accepted are on their way to England. This is the introduction of pauper aliens on a wholesale scale. It is doubtful whether English subscribers to Dr. Barnardo's Homes will sanction the expenditure of their money in introducing so large a foreign contingent to compete eventually with English labour.

At a meeting of the Bath City Council on Tuesday some bequests to the city were reported under the will of Mrs. Roxburgh, who died last week. In addition to legacies to charities in Bath and elsewhere, the sum of £12,000 is to be devoted to establishing a fund for the granting of annuities to unmarried women and widows. One-fourth of the residuary estate is bequeathed to provide scholarships at the Bath Technical Schools, and the remainder, about £8,000, for the erection of an art gallery.

A general meeting of the Hospital Reform Association was held in the Louis XVI. Room at the Hotel Cecil, on Thursday afternoon. Dr. Ward Cousins presided. After considerable discussion, it was decided that meetings of the medical profession should be called in all the principal centres in the country, commencing with a general meeting in London at an early date, to consider the following recommendations of the Association:—

(1) That inasmuch as the out-patient departments of the Hospitals and Infirmarys of the United Kingdom are attended by (a) a large number of patients whose ailments are of such a trivial nature that they do not require the special skill of Hospital physicians and surgeons, and by (b) a considerable number of patients who are in a position to pay either the fees of a provident dispensary or those of general practitioners—the Hospital Reform Association is of opinion that these departments should be restricted to the treatment of patients whose cases require special skill, and whose circumstances necessitate their application for gratuitous treatment. The Association, therefore, begs to recommend the Hospital managers to receive as out-patients only those who have been recommended by competent medical authorities.

(2) That in order to prevent over-crowding of the out-patient departments, and also to ensure that every patient shall have a proper amount of time devoted to his case, the Hospital managers should be requested to make regulations to limit the number of new cases to be seen on each day by each medical and surgical officer; and the Association begs to suggest that the number of such cases should not exceed twenty.

(3) That as there is every reason to believe that the casualty department of Hospitals is used to a very large extent for the treatment of cases which are not of an urgent and suitable nature, the Association hopes that the managers of Hospitals will take such steps as they may think necessary to prevent people suffering only from minor ailments from obtaining treatment in that department.

(4) That inasmuch as there is a strong evidence that the "letters" or recommendations of subscribers are much misused, the Association is of opinion that the best course for Hospitals to adopt is to abolish letters or recommendations, and to consider each case from the point of view of its suitability for gratuitous Hospital treatment."

South-Eastern Poor-Law Conference.

ANNUALLY, most excellent conferences of members of Boards of Guardians in London, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Berks, and Hants are held, and very interesting discussions arise which are very valuable to Poor-Law Guardians and Officers.

On December 2nd, the Conference this year was opened at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall. Miss Bramston (St. George's, Hanover Square), read a paper on "The Care and Control of Poor-Law Children," as did also the Rev. G. P. Trevelyan, who strongly advocated the boarding-out system. "The essence of the system was that the children boarded out were grafted in a new family, and not the least important object in view was to place the children in such a position that hereditary taints might be counteracted and good moral habits cultivated." On the second day of the conference Mr. C. S. Roundell read a paper on Nursing in Workhouses, in the course of which he said, "The sum and substance of the Workhouse Nursing difficulty was the relation of the Nurse to the Matron, and the subjection of the trained Nurse to the untrained Matron; and the cause of the difficulty lay in the fact that in the eyes of the Local Government Board the Master and Matron were the unit upon which the whole Workhouse administration turned. Having referred to the changes which had been made over the whole system of the Poor-Law administration during recent years, he ascribed the operative factor in this great and beneficent improvement to the recognition and establishment of the trained Nurse. He advocated that the Master should be made the unit of the Workhouse Administration; that the Matron should be appointed independently on her own merits, and that the charge of the sick should be taken away from the Matron, leaving, to her only, the charge of the women and children. If this were done, three-fourths of the work of reform desired would be accomplished. But they should go a step further and officially recognise the *status* of the trained Nurse, and also the fact that the Nursing Staff was an organic factor in every Workhouse Institution, with its own separate and distinct organisation, and they would have gone far to travel over the remainder of the course of reform."

Miss Twining (Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association), urged that the preparation and supply of trained Nurses for Workhouses ought not to be left to voluntary effort. There was now a demand, and a growing demand, for trained Nurses by Boards of Guardians. The Association with which she was connected did what it could with the funds at its disposal, and during the last seventeen years had trained and sent out several hundreds of Nurses, but it was quite unable to meet the demand. Having referred to the difficulty of inducing trained Nurses to undertake Nursing work in Workhouses under existing conditions, she contended that the position of the Nurse should be properly recognised, and insisted upon the necessity of appointing women as Poor Law Inspectors.

Mr. S. Bacon moved a resolution, which was unanimously passed, urging upon the Local Government Board the necessity of appointing women as inspectors to supervise Nursing arrangements in Workhouses.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and after the customary votes of thanks the conference separated.

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