

- (10) October 14th.—District Nursing—for and against.
 (11) November 4th.—Tuberculosis.
 (12) November 25th.—What is the greatest Power?
 Social Evenings May and November.

REFERRING to the Local Government Board, Miss Louisa Twining addressed the following letter to the *Times* :—

"All who are, or have been, Guardians of the Poor, will welcome the announcement that some reorganisation of this department is contemplated. At the recent conference on Poor Law matters, largely attended by those interested, especially in the south-eastern counties, it was unanimously decided that a special department is desirable and necessary to consider the important subject of the children of the State, not by taking them away from the care of Boards of Guardians, but by a controlling and directing power of those best acquainted with the matter, to suggest and advise upon it. May I say, also, that we feel strongly that another department of this great work urgently needs the special consideration and control of experts and those who are thoroughly acquainted with it, viz., the Nursing of our Workhouses and Infirmaries? The difficulties connected with this branch of Poor-Law work are more serious and pressing now than at any previous time, owing to the growing need, felt almost universally, of trained and fully qualified women, not only in the larger Infirmaries of towns, but in the smaller Workhouses of country Unions also. Many of us feel deeply these growing difficulties, and are convinced that they can only be solved by the united counsel of those who understand the subject. The demand for Nurses has outgrown the powers and limits of private and voluntary bodies, and we feel that the training and equipping of Nurses for our State Institutions should be taken up and provided for on a larger scale than is possible at present.

May I add that another resolution was passed unanimously at the recent conference, viz., that some women should be added to the staff of Inspectors of Workhouses and Infirmaries, in order that the nursing, now carried out mainly by young women, should be carefully and thoroughly supervised by those who are themselves trained Nurses? Our State Institutions will then become all that we can desire for the sick and helpless poor."

Any suggestion from such a pioneer of Infirmary Nursing reform as Miss Twining will always receive attention, and her letter touches on the open sore of Workhouse Nursing mismanagement—a sore which no amount of palliative treatment can heal—we allude, of course, to the ever-recurring irritation between the untrained Workhouse Matron and the trained Workhouse Nurse. No amount of inspection will remove the first cause of the disorganisation now existing—the cause must be removed root and branch—and our Workhouse Matrons should not merely be the wives of the Masters, they should be quite independent officials, and trained Nurses. The supervision of the Nursing of the sick would then be constant and systematic, and therefore

effectual. Added to this reform, Miss Twining's suggestion of official Nursing inspection would make the system complete.

WE are glad to observe that the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, has replied to a letter addressed to the *Times* by Mr. Arnold White on the subject of the proposed augmentation of the funds of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute.

Mr. White's views on this subject are peculiar. He characterises the scheme as one "which will prolong the lives of Her Majesty's cancerous, epileptic and consumptive subjects, and will thus indirectly conduce to the multiplication of the unfit."

We rather think that if Mr. Arnold White should have the misfortune to become one of the cancerous, epileptic or consumptive subjects whom he describes, he would think himself entitled to all the skilled care attainable under such circumstances, and would not consider that his public duty demanded of him that he should retire from this world's stage as speedily as possible—"pro bono publico."

THE Metropolitan Asylums Board have resolved "that a term of five years be added to the period of service of Miss Larsen, Matron of the North-Western Hospital, for the purpose of calculating the superannuation allowance to be granted to her." It was stated that Miss Larsen had contracted disease in the discharge of her duties, and that, under the resolution, her superannuation allowance would be increased from £44 5s. to £55 per annum.

The Board also resolved, on the recommendation of the North-Eastern Hospital Committee, to grant to Sarah Brackley, first Assistant Nurse at that Hospital, who had contracted scarlet-fever and diphtheria in the discharge of her duties, the sum of £30 to enable her to rest and recruit her health before she made another attempt to earn her livelihood.

THE following letter appeared a few days ago in the *Echo* :—

"TYRANNY IN HOSPITALS.

SIR,—Twelve Nurses belonging to a North London Medical Institute recently signed their names protesting against the registration of the proposed Pasteur Institute at Chelsea. The names being somewhat crowded, I called at the Institution with a clean memorial sheet, and asked them to sign according to rules, viz., name one side, address the other—giving them back the crowded paper. To my surprise the greatest consternation was expressed at the name of the hospital being affixed. The sister in charge, who was ill, sent a Nurse to say that the names were given under the express condition that the name of no hospital was to be mentioned. She refused to return

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