

used, and, the lead undergoing a chemical change, a poison was produced.

An interesting paper was read by Dr. Meredith Young of Crewe, upon the "Furnishing and General Administration of Small Isolation Hospitals." Dr. Young deprecated—what he stated to be a common practice of hospital authorities—the appointment of a man and his wife as caretakers of such a hospital, with permission to live rent free in the building, on the condition that they kept it in order, with perhaps a small douceur in addition when there were patients in the hospital. Dr. Young pointed out a most serious objection to this system, namely, that these caretakers were not unfrequently employed by the authorities to act as nurses. He thought that there could be no two opinions as to the right of affording to the sick in these institutions the benefits of skilled nursing. In cases of enteric fever, this was a matter of life and death. Further, an ordinary caretaker and his wife were very rarely trained in the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection, and if this were so, the utility of the isolation hospital was impaired.

The sanitary inspectors met in conference under the presidency of Mr. Peter Fyfe, F.R.S., Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Glasgow Corporation. The chief point of interest in Mr. Fyfe's speech, to our mind, is his statement as to the aspirations of sanitary inspectors for legal recognition, systematic instruction, a minimum standard of efficiency, and state recognized examination. "There were three outstanding needs of this present time," he said, "so far as sanitary inspectors were concerned. The first was a systematic and high class course of instruction and examination recognized by the laws of the three kingdoms. The second was an equitable scheme of union, close and indissoluble between every sanitary inspectors' association. The third was a legalized basis upon which every inspector might feel absolutely secure, both as to the tenure of his office, and the comfort of his old age. . . . As to the need of a general and systematic course of instruction and legalized examination for inspectors, there could surely be no diversity of view. They could not go on much longer with honour to themselves, or with benefit to this important branch of the public service, without a special education, and without a general legalized standard of proficiency, in knowledge, and adequacy of training. They wanted a uniform policy against nuisances, equal tenure of office, liberal and controlled technical education, State-recognized examination, absolute freedom in action from personal control, or from fear of man, in the discharge of public duty. Until those things were obtained, neither they nor their public work would be right, or satisfactory, in the public interests. What can gain them these things? Union alone. Close, brotherly, helpful union meant power and

influence. Without it, disintegration was at hand, to weaken and destroy even existing organizations." We shall watch with much interest the trend of events. Will the sanitary inspectors have to endure the personal obloquy, the fierce opposition of vested interests, the open antagonism of foes, and the treachery of professing friends, to which the trained nurses, who have for the last ten years been pleading for the same rights and liberties, have been subjected, until many of them have retired discomfited from the fray, others have betrayed their principles, and yet others appear to have lost their heads in the battle, and almost to have forgotten what they are fighting for? The minority, however, keep up the struggle, and there can be no doubt that eventually victory will be with them, as even a superficial study of the history of all reforms will serve to demonstrate. "*Magna est veritas, et prevalebit.*" We shall watch the sanitary inspectors, in their efforts to obtain legal recognition, with the greatest possible interest.

The Ladies' Conference on Domestic Hygiene was presided over by Mrs. Fawkes, of Farnley Hall. The President, in her opening remarks, drew attention to the important fact that within the last few years women had had official recognition in sanitary reform, the Corporation of Nottingham, in 1892, being the first to appoint a woman as sanitary inspector. Now there were eighteen women at work in this capacity. It was not in official work, however, that women could do most in the great cause of sanitary reform. There were two giants to fight—ignorance and prejudice—and in order to teach others they must themselves know.

Mrs. R. W. Eddison read a paper on the Health Department of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education, and explained that in 1870 peripatetic lecturers on health were employed. These did not gain the best results, but friendly talks on health to women proved most successful. Subsequently, lectures in connection with the Science and Art Department, and in domestic hygiene, in connection with the Yorkshire Training School of Cookery were established.

Mrs. Rawlinson Ford moved a resolution, which was ultimately adopted, urging the desirability of the appointment of one or more women as additional sanitary inspectors in Leeds, and pointing out the special suitability of women for this office.

A paper was read by Mrs. E. L. Connor on "Health in Infant Schools," after which the meeting adjourned until Thursday, 17th inst., when Miss Goodrich Freer, hon. secretary to the Horticultural College, Swanley, read a paper on "Horticulture as a Healthy Occupation for Women." Miss Freer drew attention to the fact that "in these days of transition there were many women who were wearing themselves out—who were irritable, weary, and overdone, not because they were incapable of work,

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