

scheme for the organisation of a Branch in New Zealand, but her ultimatum that a qualifying examination should be necessary for membership, thus following on the only reasonable lines, and those adopted by the medical profession all the world over, was vetoed by the medical members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, after a strong protest on our part. The answer to Mrs. Neill's report was delegated to a sub-committee, composed principally of Sir Dyce Duckworth and Mr. Edward Fardon, and between them they drew up a dogmatic reply, stultifying all power of real co-operation and progress of nurses in New Zealand through affiliation with the Royal British Nurses' Association. Mrs. Neill remained firm, and refused to organize a Branch on futile lines, a course of action, for which she deserves the warmest thanks and strong support of her colleagues in England.

How often have we nurses sat watching the struggle between life and death, in some patient, whose only hope of recovery consists in maintaining the strength by delicately prepared compressed foods, in which a maximum of nourishment is contained? How often have we been directed by the medical attendant to spoon-feed such patients with peptonised milk, and meat extract, relying wholly upon these preparations to keep alive our patient?

AND what if after all this "essence" of beef, or chicken, is a fraud? How despicable and indescribably cruel is the thievish fiend who places on the market so-called "meat extracts," composed of filth unmentionable—a substance in which the germs of death surely lurk—instead of life-giving properties.

UNDER these circumstances the public will rejoice at the severe fines imposed at the Southwark Police Court upon such criminals as Geary, Ashley, and Sureties, convicted of manufacturing "Meat Extracts" and "extract blendings" from the putrid livers of pigs, and it will only regret that such an offence is not punishable with the "cat." After such an exposure it will be many a long day before the Nursing profession or their patients will regain confidence in "extracts" and "table delicacies" unless prepared under their own eyes, or obtained from firms of the highest reputation.

AT last week's meeting of the Committee of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, the Matron brought up quite a long list of absentee nurses. Some were on leave, others had left, and one in particular, Nurse Peacock, it seemed had remained away after her leave had expired, and sent word that she was suffering from debility, and wanted further leave. It transpired that this was the second time she had been taken "ill" while away on her holidays.

FATHER HIGLEY remarked that special consideration should not be shown the young woman because her father and brother were guardians, and it was resolved to request her to return at once to her duties, and that the next time a similar thing occurred, it would result in dismissal.

WE consider a regulation should be in force in every hospital and infirmary, prohibiting immediate members of the family of Governors and officials from service in such institutions.

THE difficulty and expense entailed upon all Boards of Guardians in obtaining and retaining trained nurses in country workhouse infirmaries—by the Order issued by the Local Government Board—is extreme, and we own to some sympathy with Mr. Brown, P. L. G., of Cheltenham, "who looks back with regret to the days of the old system." Not of course that we regret the "pauper nurse," but because we are of opinion that in issuing an Order which revolutionised the system of nursing in workhouse infirmaries, it was the duty of the Local Government Board at the same time to make some suggestions which would make it possible for Boards of Guardians to carry out their Order.

Now as far as we can learn, the Local Government Board has taken very little trouble to organise any scheme whatever, or indeed to invite those who might with expert experience, be able to help them towards this desirable end; and until the State recognises the necessity for the co-operation of women on the Local Government Board, and the organisation of a State Nursing Department in its councils, we fear that the bitter cry of the Guardians of the Poor will bleat forth continuously all over the land.

IN another column will be found a letter from an unprofessional reader, endorsing a notice from "The Manageress" of the Sanitary Wood Wool Company, Limited, in which the following paragraph appears:—"I beg to enclose a copy of our latest *Reduced Price List for Nurses*, by which you will see we allow Nurses a great reduction, as we think it only fair that they should *make a profit out of the dressings that they obtain for their patients.*"

OUR correspondent who may be one of "their patients," naturally disapproves of this system of bribery and corruption, and the majority of trained nurses will, we *feel sure*, agree with her, and we hope that they will find no temptation to enter into an undignified arrangement with the manageress of this firm. It may be business, but in our judgment it is not strictly honest, and it is unprofessional withal. We should advise any nurse who receives this printed offer to communicate direct with the Directors of the Sanitary

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