

and to whom the child's death must have been a terrible shock.

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THE accusation that we earnest women come perilously near the proverbial bore when we take up public questions, must not be lost sight of, if we are to *interest* the general public in our reforms. This was brought home to us in the following letter from a friend.

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KNOWING that she was to attend the meetings of the Women's Department of the recent Sanitary Congress, at Southampton, we invited a chatty criticism of the same from her pen for these columns. We waited in vain for the orthodox report, but the following letter is instructive:—

"I am really no journalist. I went to two rather dreary Sanitary meetings, but I was quite incapable of "making copy" out of them—I ask you! There was a lady with pots that took hours to boil; there was a lady with a sweet smile who maundered on for half an hour anent women's health when working, and missed most of the points; there were some gymnastic displays by two girls in (I am *not* keen on dress) most awfully hideous hygienic costumes praised by the speaker, but viewed with snifty disfavour by two old gentlemen on the platform. There was the *one* speech every newspaper caught hold of—Lady Harberton's; it may have been partly the subject, but I think it was chiefly because she was a real genuine faddist, and in deadly honest earnest. Then another lady flowed on fluently, if not eloquently, and waved jewelled hands, and looked so fragile, one did not wonder to hear her protesting against gymnastics for women, and a lady, who knew her subject but was dull, on Infant Mortality, chiefly in regard to mistaken views on the part of mothers and baby farmers about feeding and feeding bottles. That is all I heard of the meetings. Then I went to a Mayor's reception on the pier—very much mixed pickles, and an exhibition of the usual health kind, baths, drain pipes, disposal of sewage, cooking ranges, and so forth, and bands—much bands!!! But putting aside all nonsense I will say this for the women, they were in earnest, they had something to talk about, and they were most anxious to explain things to you, and some of them took a really intelligent interest in the topics. It was all very well meant."

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THERE is no doubt that the "mother wit" of the American women is one of the chief reasons of their success and progress, as was very abundantly demonstrated at the recent Women's Congress. We Britishers are undeniably heavy in hand.

THE badge adopted by the Church Missionary Society for its nurses is a silver brooch bearing a red cross, the angles being filled in with blue. Round the margin, in raised silver letters, run the words: "Preach the Gospel, Heal the sick."

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"WHERE are the nurses' bicycles to be kept?" So enquired the Local Government Board with reference to the plans for a new infirmary submitted to them by the Richmond Guardians. The architect to whom the question was referred said he had made no provision, but could do so if desired.

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WELL, the ratepayer is a long-suffering person, so the Richmond ratepayers will, presumably, house their own bicycles where best they may, for the large proportion of them will not be able to build bicycle houses, and will be taxed to provide one for the Infirmary nurses. It is, perhaps, superfluous to say that we desire every arrangement should be made for the comfort of nurses, and their legitimate needs considered, but we incline to think that if they keep bicycles they should do so at their own expense.

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NURSE LAW, who for two years has been working in connection with the Church Army at Worksop, and is now leaving to take up work at Botley, Southampton, has been presented with a handsome album and writing case, besides a purse containing the balance of the money subscribed. The contributors were chiefly the very poor, to whom the nurse has endeared herself by her unselfish devotion to her work while in Worksop.

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WE recently reported the death of a patient, in the Grantham Workhouse Infirmary, from suffocation due to a piece of meat lodging in his throat, and the fact that there were only two nurses to sixty-three beds, who were responsible for day and night duty. We regret to say that the verdict of the jury upon this occasion, urging on the Guardians the immediate necessity of increasing the nursing staff, has received no attention. At a recent meeting, one member of the Board said that he thought they ought to take serious notice of the recommendation of the jury, and proposed that a sub-committee be appointed to confer with the medical officer on the question of increasing the staff. He found no seconder, however, and the matter was dropped. To be revived again, we imagine, at a future inquest, when we hope the jury will have something incisive to say concerning the conduct of the Guardians.

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