

subject in this country by the splendid way in which the London County Council has faced its responsibilities in this matter and is attempting to grapple with the difficult problem of the adequate housing of the poor at a cost within their means to pay. And not alone in Great Britain, but in the United States, in France, Belgium and Germany the question, affecting as it does the morality and the health of the nation, is being conscientiously considered.

There has recently been on view in New York a most interesting Tenement House Exhibit, now on its way to the Paris Exposition, which has been arranged by the Tenement House Committee of the Charities Organization Society. The exhibit is of the greatest practical utility, and will no doubt be of great value in enabling the public to understand this most important subject. It consists of models, maps, photographs, and plans, those of some of the improved dwellings of the present day contrasting sharply with the neglected sections of many large cities. It is to be hoped that the public conscience will be aroused, and that in days not far off it will be held to be criminal on the part of proprietors to house their tenants in overcrowded tenements inadequately lighted and ventilated, for which they demand a rent out of all proportion to the accommodation provided.

A recent issue of the *Outlook* contains an article by Miss Lillian W. Betts, giving an account of what has been effected in improving the condition of tenement houses in New York City, where nearly fifty years ago legislative interest was aroused in this question. The condition of many tenements in this city may be estimated by the fact that in 1866 the department of Health ordered 40,000 windows to be cut in houses in New York, in rooms absolutely without ventilation, or obtaining it from doors into adjoining rooms.

It is interesting that in the first attempt made in New York to improve the condition of tenement houses the services of women were requisitioned. A few gentlemen acquired some tenement houses in a neighbourhood which was the dread of the police, where every fugitive pursued by a bluecoat was befriended by every resident who was at home, who did not hesitate to drop brickbats on the heads of the pursuing police. So notorious was the neighbourhood that no agents had been willing to collect the

rents in the buildings acquired for months past. Two ladies, invested with all the authority of ownership were put in charge, the buildings were put in good repair, and certain rules were laid down for the tenants the principal being the prompt payment of rent, the ejection of any tenant whose children carried liquor in and out, also of quarrelsome families, and of husbands who beat their wives. At the end of two years all the original tenants but four were in the tenement, and the death rate of children had been reduced from seventy-five to thirty per cent. At the end of three years there had not been an arrest on the property for any offence for six months, surely a satisfactory record. As it has been found that tenement houses, built and maintained on proper lines, can be made to pay from four to six per cent., the question must be approached from the point of view of the investor rather than as one of philanthropy—never a desirable basis. We hope that the exhibit at Paris to which we have drawn attention will be studied by many who realize the extreme importance of the adequate housing of the poor.

Annotations.

NURSE TRAINING IN FRANCE.

We learn that a training school for nurses has been organized in Paris which is virtually arranged on the lines which we have always advocated, namely, those of a professional college in which the pupils pay for their education. The announcement is of great interest to us, not only because it endorses our own views, but because it indicates that we are on the right lines when our conclusions are arrived at independently by those in other countries who are working towards the solution of the problems which we have set ourselves to solve. The School is housed in a mansion built in the time of Louis XIII, and at present it is contemplated that probationers will be trained for private and district nursing only. The pupils will be required to sign a two years' agreement and to pay 80 francs (£3 13s. 4d.) a month for board and training. The morning is to be spent in hospital and the afternoon devoted to theoretic study. Candidates must be of French nationality, and if they do not possess a diploma for general education they will be required to pass an examination testing their general knowledge. At the end of their first year's training they will be allowed to choose which special branch

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