

people. In our view, there should be a hospital ward and operating room in every large prison, and a nurse or nurses should form part of the prison staff.

A Sister of Charity engaged in a Brunswick hospital has been sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment for allowing a child to be scalded to death in a bath. During her absence the child turned on the hot water, with the above result.

The danger of leaving a child alone in a bath is great, both because it may slip under the water and be drowned, and also for fear of such an accident as the disastrous one above related. The rule, which should be invariable, that no child is to be left alone for a moment in a bath should be rigidly enforced in every instance.

It is announced that in the Lette Association—which was founded by the late Empress Frederick of Germany for advancing the cause of women—classes have now been formed for training "Roentgen Sisters." Their duty will be to nurse patients subjected to the Roentgen ray treatment, and to assist the operating surgeons at their work with this apparatus. This class will consist at first of forty ladies.

Society for State Registration.

Mr. Douglas Bryan, in a letter recently addressed to this journal, made a statement with which we are in full sympathy, that "important reform can only be brought about by obtaining the opinions of all grades of nurses and then taking the best suggestions and bringing them before Parliament." The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is now engaged in drafting a Bill with this object, and, when this has been discussed and approved by the members in general meeting assembled, we hope to publish it, and invite discussion on its clauses. We must realise, however, that it would be a mistake for any Bill to define in detail a course of nursing education. The Bill must lay down general principles, and the detailed curriculum be left largely to the Nursing Council called into existence on the passage of a Nursing Act. The constitution of this Council will be a matter of supreme importance, and, adopting Mr. Bryan's excellent suggestion of inviting answers to questions asked in this journal bearing on the Registration movement, we will this week ask our readers how, in their opinion, such a central Nursing Council should be formed so as to represent and protect the interests of those concerned—trained nurses, the medical profession, and the public. We shall welcome answers to this question.

The Hospital World.

THE CAMBERWELL INFIRMARY.

There is no brighter feature in the nursing of the poor than the fact that one by one our large Poor Law Infirmaries are being rebuilt on a most generous scale. Structurally, they are arranged on the most approved modern principles, and simultaneously for the most part the nursing schools are being organised under the superintendence of experienced Matrons, so that a high standard of care of the sick poor is replacing that which prevailed half a century ago.

Those who desire to acquaint themselves with the conditions then in force should read Miss Louisa Twining's "Workhouses and Pauperism." They will thus be able to form an idea of the conditions then prevailing concerning the nursing of the indigent sick, and to estimate the progress which has been made.

LOOK ON THAT PICTURE—

This is the account of the Strand Workhouse in 1855:—

When Dr. Rogers, a hero of workhouse reform, was appointed medical officer to that workhouse, the "nurses" were pauper inmates, usually infirm, and more often drunk than sober, who were remunerated for their services by an amended dietary and a pint of beer, to which was added a glass of gin when their duties were particularly repulsive. Underneath the dining-hall was the laundry, with the fumes of which it was filled four days in the week, while the lying-in ward was immediately above the female insane ward. The ward for fevers and foul cases was separated from a tinker's shop by a lath and plaster partition only 8 ft. high.

Of this Dr. Rogers writes:—"It was altogether unsuitable for the reception of any human being, however degraded he might be; but it had to be used. I remember a poor wretch being admitted with frost-bitten feet, which speedily mortified, rendering the atmosphere of the ward and shop frightfully offensive. At first I was at a loss to know whom to get to go through the offensive duty of waiting on him. At last a little fellow, called Wiseman undertook the task, the bribe being two pints of beer and some gin daily, with steaks or chops for dinner. Presently the patient was seized with tetanus, and after the most fearful sufferings died. He was followed almost immediately afterwards by poor Wiseman, who had contracted from his patient one of the most malignant forms of blood-poisoning I ever saw."

—AND ON THIS.

Contrast this appalling condition of things with that prevailing in the majority of Metropolitan Infirmaries to-day. Take as a typical instance the newest of these institutions, the Camberwell Infirmary, which is planned to accommodate 800

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