

5,731, which includes anything not on the code, such as cuts, wounds, &c.

Trachoma, of which more will be said in another issue, is not treated at any time by the nurses. The simple washing out of the eye has very little effect on the disease, if any, and is a source of contagion unless the strictest precautions are observed. The acute conjunctivitis and the purulent forms are thoroughly cleansed with a boracic-acid solution, and besides this treatment in school the mother is visited and a practical demonstration is given, with the advice to repeat the treatment at regular times.

Eczema, scabies, and impetigo are treated according to the schedule given. Pediculi succumb readily to the kerosene and sweet-oil. The potassium carbonate aids in getting off the oils and dirt. The vinegar, when heated and applied loosens the "nits," when they can be brushed or drawn off with a piece of cloth. This means a lot of labour for the mothers, but, as they are anxious for the children to be clean, every effort is made. That the work is needed is seen by the many requests from teachers and doctors asking for nurses in schools where they have none. While much has been done, there is still more to be done. We hope to have every school in the city supplied with a room and other essentials, as well as having a nurse. Not the least part of the education is the instruction given to the mothers in the homes in cleanliness and the smaller details of nursing.

It is hoped that other cities may find it a part of their educational system which they cannot neglect, and that in a very short time the work will be universal."

### Plain and Pretty Private Nurses.

The *Daily Express* says ladies object to pretty private nurses, one nurse going so far as to remark:—"It is absolutely fatal to be exceptionally good-looking. Young wives are so foolishly jealous nowadays that if their husbands fall ill and need trained nursing, they will refuse to engage any nurse who is not downright ugly."

This is not our experience; indeed, over and over again we have been asked for "a nice-looking nurse," as "my husband likes someone fresh-looking and cheery about and him"; "Don't send us a dull and dowdy woman; they are so depressing," and so forth. Of course, the *style* of a nurse goes a long way; there are pretty and plain *pleasing* nurses. A nurse-like woman is unmistakable. Many pretty, soulless persons are interminably dull when a sick person, vampire-like, attempts to absorb vital qualities of mind they do not possess, whilst the woman possessed of sympathy and intelligence is never really plain at close quarters.

### Registration of Plumbers.

For a long time the plumbers have asked for registration in view of the sanitary necessities of accurate plumbing. The British Medical Association has now by direct vote expressed sympathy with the movement.

### Nursing Echoes.

\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The estimation of trained nurses by the Colchester Guardians is hardly a flattering one. At a recent meeting of the Board, these men made themselves very offensive and ridiculous. Mr. Peek, upon a proposal to employ a woman to do the housework at the new Nurses' Home, complained of the large amount of public money already spent in officers' salaries. Of every £3 spent on in-maintenance, he said, £1 was paid to the officers for distributing it.

Mr. Littlebury said he rejoiced to hear that the nurses had not asked for a butler.

Mr. Bowles said someone was wanted to do the dirty work. For many years past there had been some inmate of the house able to perform this work, but now the Guardians were without such a person.

Mr. Lissimore sarcastically proposed the appointment of a lady's maid for the nurse. He thought more of the Matron's time was occupied in looking after the nurses than after the patients, and the house seemed to be becoming a Nurses' Home instead of a home for the poor.

The Chairman, Mr. J. Wicks, C.C., said they would all recognise that this was a recrudescence of the opposition to the Nurses' Home; but the Board had built the Home, and it would have to be attended to properly.

It was eventually resolved, by ten votes to eight, to ask the relieving officers if they could supply a suitable person to do the work. An amendment by Mr. Peek, that a woman be not employed, was defeated by one vote.

A few more such pleasantries at their expense and we should not blame the nurses if they solved the question for the Guardians by relieving them of further expense by resigning their thankless task.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Bury Board of Guardians, the Visiting Committee reported that the workhouse master had notified that through the carelessness of a nurse the body of a female inmate who had died had wrongly been taken out of the workhouse for burial and had to be brought back. The Committee recommended that the nurse be re-

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