

### Annotations.

#### METROPOLITAN STREET AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

Dr. Arthur James, Honorary Secretary of the Metropolitan Street Ambulance Association, writes endorsing the remarks of Mr. Troutbeck, the Lambeth Coroner, on the need of an efficient ambulance service for street casualties in London. He says that, every year, not only do people die who might be saved by the prompt arrival of a well-equipped ambulance with its skilled attendant, but some who would not otherwise die lose their lives entirely through the faulty method of their removal in unsuitable conveyances. In January of this year the medical profession took the matter in hand, and formed themselves into the Metropolitan Street Ambulance Association, with a membership which now numbers nearly 1,100 of the most eminent medical men in London. The Association endeavours to interest the public generally in the subject, which so closely concerns every individual in the community. It wishes to see established in London, with as little delay as possible, an up-to-date ambulance service, summonable by telephone and provided with rapid transport, so that skilled aid can be quickly brought to any case of accident or sudden illness occurring in the streets or public places, and the patient removed to home or hospital in a comfortable ambulance, with a watchful attendant at his side.

#### CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

At the annual Poor Law Conference for the South-Eastern and Metropolitan Poor Law Districts, recently held at the Royal United Service Institution, a discussion on guardians and the feeble-minded had a special interest Mr. R. A. Bray, L.C.C., ex-guardian of the Camberwell Union, who opened the discussion, said it was estimated that there were 5,549 feeble-minded children in London and 100,000 in England and Wales. Of those attending special schools one-third, perhaps, might be rendered self-supporting. As to the other two-thirds, the problem remained what was to be done with them after the age of sixteen when they passed out of the control of the Education Authority, or after twenty-one, to which age they might be kept by the Metropolitan Asylums Board while learning a suitable trade. He advocated a large extension of the Care Committees, which might establish a system of voluntary detention in hostels. Those who

never could be self-supporting must be compulsorily detained in special homes or work-houses. The county councils and not the guardians should deal with the feeble-minded, for it was a question not of poverty, but of affliction and education. Sir William Chance added the argument that county council aid carried no stigma of pauperism.

#### AMERICAN NURSES IN JAPAN.

Miss McCaul, whose book describing her recent visit to Japan we review in another column, met during her visit to Tokio Dr. McGee, who, with eight American nurses, offered her services to the Japanese Government, an offer which was accepted. "On her remarking," says Miss McCaul, "that she was glad English nursing was being represented by me, I replied I could not take the credit of holding such a high position, as I had not come to nurse, but to inspect the Red Cross Society's work throughout the country, by the gracious sanction of our Queen, and by the permission of the Japanese Government. At the same time I could not refrain from adding that I thought it a grave mistake for foreigners and nurses to offer their services to a people whose customs and habits were so entirely different from their own, to say nothing of the difficulty of language."

It must always be remembered that there is, and should be, strong sympathy between America and Japan where nursing is concerned. Let us render to Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's, and remember that it was an American woman, Miss Linda Richards, who organised at Kioto the first training-school for Japanese nurses. Were it not for her splendid work Japan might not, probably would not, be in the position which she is now in relation to nursing matters. Her name must ever be held in reverence where Japanese nursing is concerned. It is not often that a pioneer worker is permitted to see such brilliant results of her work as is Miss Richards to-day, when the efficiency of Japanese nursing, both as to its organisation and its practical performance, is the admiration of the world. The criticism which has found voice in connection with the visit of the American nurses to Japan has mainly been directed against the fact that they were superintended, and represented by a member of the medical profession, rather than by one of their own class. The right of American nurses to offer their services to Japan in war time cannot be questioned, and we sympathise with the generous impulse which inspired them.

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