

ameliorated the lot of the members of the Nursing Service.

It is almost inconceivable that the lot of the nurses working in a public service of the Great Republic should be as described. What class of workers can this service attract, and what sort of service do they render to the sick?

The Revolt at Gartloch Asylum.

Considerable sensation has been caused in Glasgow owing to the threat of the nurses at the Gartloch Asylum, seventy in number, to strike *en bloc*.

We must say at the outset that whatever the grievances of the nurses, and it may be that they have just cause for complaint, a strike in an institution where the sick are cared for is always inexcusable. The fault, if fault there be, lies at the door of those who control the institution, and the consequences of the shortcomings of others should not be visited upon helpless patients.

The strike was threatened because the Glasgow Parish Council proposed to reduce the number of the nurses and also increased their hours of work.

It is well known that in many asylums, having regard to the great mental strain involved, the hours on duty are excessive, and we have every sympathy with those nurses who endeavour to bring this fact to the notice of the authorities by legitimate means, or who resign work which they cannot conscientiously perform. The threatened strike of the Gartloch nurses, which was a mistake, was averted by their being informed by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Parker, that to leave lunatic wards unattended is criminal under Scotch law.

Subsequently, in the presence of two members of the Board, five head nurses were summarily dismissed by Dr. Parker. They informed him that they had nothing to do with the agitation and that the ringleaders were still employed.

Immediately the dismissal became known the other nurses in the asylum gave in their notice.

Writing to a local paper, "Olive" expresses her sympathy with the Gartloch nurses. She thinks truly that men cannot understand the work the nurses have to perform. She considers, and we agree with her, that lady commissioners should be appointed by Government to visit hospitals and asylums, and ascertain how they are staffed, and how the nurses work.

The Hospital World.

A HOSPITAL SCHOOL.

The monotonous life of the child suffering from hip disease needs no description to nurses. Other children may come and go, relieved or cured, or perchance

"Too young for the slum to sully they are gone to the Glory land,
To look on the thousand marvels that they scarce can understand."

Month by month, however, sometimes year by year, the child with hip disease occupies his cot. Flat on his back he lies, with a cord and weight attached to the unsound leg to prevent or lessen the pain in the diseased joint, with the circle of his vision confined within narrow limits, as his shoulders must always rest flat on the bed, so that he can only lift his head from the pillow ever so little. What a life for a growing boy or girl! Its limits are set by the round of ward work, the surgeon's visits, and, perhaps, twice a week, the advent of his own relatives for a short hour. All this time his intelligence—and often hip disease children have an unusual share of intelligence—is lying fallow, for hospital nurses have no time, in addition to their many other duties, to undertake educational work.

So it was a happy thought of the Chaplain to the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, where sixty-seven children suffering from this disease are admitted, that a school might be started. Doctors and nurses were of one mind as to the desirability of the scheme, and now that it is in full operation under specially trained teachers of the London County Council, they are enthusiastic as to its benefits. "The children are so keen about their work, and their intelligence is developing in a marvellous way," said the Sister. "That child, for instance (a girl occupying a corner bed), has been in the hospital for years, she hardly ever spoke, and it was almost impossible to draw her out. Now she is as bright and intelligent as possible, and to-day she was actually singing." No wonder the nursing staff are full of praise for the school, if this is the result to their little charges.

School hours are naturally short. Ten to twelve in the morning when the more serious tasks are undertaken. Half-past one to three in the afternoon, when embroidery, lace work, bent-iron twisting, or kindergarten tasks occupy the time. No one can see the children, with their alert, eager, happy faces, without realising how much the school has done for them. Even those who night and day, except

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