

all subscriptions, changes of address, and purely business letters are to be addressed to her at "The Nest," Horsham, Sussex. Thus many of her old nurses will feel in touch with her again.

Miss A. Martin-Leake, the Secretary of the Q.V.J.N., writes in the Magazine:—

"May I inform Queen's Nurses through your columns that permission has been given by the Institute for them to wear dark blue motor caps of an approved pattern in place of sailor hats when cycling or in country districts? Arrangements are being made with Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, and also with Messrs. Egerton Burnett, to stock these caps as part of the Queen's Nurses' uniform. Debenham and Freebody's price for the cap is 2s. 11d. and Egerton Burnett's price will be about the same."

This seems a most wise arrangement.

And a Queen's Superintendent has something sensible to say on the question of district nurses' uniforms. She writes:—

"While quite realising the importance of adhering strictly to the Queen's Uniform, it would be helpful if Queen's Nurses, especially those working in country districts, would state why they find a practical difficulty in keeping to the one at present prescribed.

"I have found that some nurses are unable to cycle with comfort in a bonnet, facing the wind and rain, because of neuralgia; and the brim of a sailor hat is apt, in wet weather, to act as a sort of spout in conducting the rain into the unfortunate wearer's lap or down her back. I have also heard that a properly made cycling ulster, with detachable cape, would be more useful than the present approved coat and skirt. I am sure the Council of the Institute would be willing to consider any sensible suggestions for practical alterations in the present uniform that might be found desirable."

Another correspondent would be delighted to join a League of Queen's Nurses, and hopes one will be formed. And so do we. Thus it will be seen Queen's Nurses make good use of their organ.

We should advise everyone interested in the working of the present Poor Laws, especially those connected with the nursing of the sick to procure the article by Mr. Louis Sinclair, entitled "The Degrading Operation of the Poor Laws, A Great Blot on Britain's Domestic Escutcheon," printed by W. H. Maisey, 16, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate, E.C., to which we briefly referred in a recent issue,

Under the heading "Lunacy" Mr. Sinclair writes very plainly, as may be gathered from the following quotation:—

"This is the saddest phase of human life, and the one that calls forth our keenest sympathy; the wonder is therefore the greater that it should ever have been associated with 'pauperism' and its shifty and seamy side of life. Much the larger proportion of the inmates of the County Asylums come from the respectable poor and the middle classes. Why should the afflicted of these classes be dubbed 'paupers'? It is humiliating to their relatives and, friends to have to bear the stigma for no other reason than an inability to pay the heavy charge of private asylums. It will be a happy day when the Government realises its duty to the most terribly afflicted of God's creatures and passes an Act declaring lunacy, like pauperism, a State question, not a parochial one, dependent upon parochial relief. There are many reforms needed in our county and other asylums: far too much power is now left in the hands of the superintendents with inefficient control by either Government or Council. The nursing and attendant staffs in all asylums are miserably inadequate, and they lack, in general, any previous training, either mental or moral, for the work. A Royal Commission is badly needed to enquire into the subject, for only a Royal Commission can bring to light the many scandals, some of which so frequently shock us by their partial revelation in the press. It is not, perhaps, the fault of the officials, but the system which selects the attendants on account of their physical strength and corporeal proportions, rather than for their moral, intellectual, and technical qualifications.

"Some classification of the inmates in the asylum will be necessary, for the imbecile and paralytic incapables—to be removed from the workhouses—will need homes of their own so as to avoid association with the insane. When the whole system of relief is changed, a redistribution of existing buildings will probably leave some of the workhouses free for the reception of the harmless mental incapables."

At the recent meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association, held at their Rooms, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, a most instructive lecture was given by Mrs. Catterton-Smith, beginning with a slight sketch of the growth of art in England from early times, and leading up to a chat about Watts' pictures. She described very vividly some of his most noted pictures now on view at the Royal Hibernian Academy, and showed how one can trace in them the different schools he passed through and the influence they had on his work. The nurses keenly appreciated the lecture. A most cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Catterton-Smith.

The protest from the Irish Nurses' Association against what they consider the inefficient

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