

popularise the general work of the nurses amongst the parents. The number of attendances on scholars have been 2,425, in ten months, the principal ailments dealt with being sore eyes, running ears, sore heads, scabs on face, and suppurating feet. The general work of the Association has greatly increased, and from March 1st to December 31st, 1906, 219 cases have been attended, and 9,918 visits paid, as against 138 cases, and 5,866 visits in the previous twelve months. The two nurses of the Association—Nurse Wilson and Nurse Hampton—were both, previous to their appointment, Sisters at the Toxteth Park Infirmary. The Hon. Secretary is Miss Muncaster, Corkickle.

At the International Congress on Psychiatry, Neurology, Psychology, and the Nursing of Lunatics, to be held at the Hague, under the patronage of Queen Wilhelmina, and Prince Hendrik of the Netherlands, from September 2nd to the 7th of this year, Dr. W. P. Ruijsch, of the Hague, will preside over the section on the Nursing of Lunatics. Anyone taking an interest in the Congress may become a member. The languages employed will be English, French, and German. The General Secretary is Dr. G. A. M. van Wayenburg, Prinsengracht, 717, Amsterdam.

*Medicus*, writing in *Nosokomos* on "Trades-Unionism in the Nursing Profession," refers to the "Middleburg Question," and the decision with regard to the dismissal of Sister S. which we recently reported. He thinks this decision not so bad as when differences arise in a hospital one of the parties must be removed, and assumes that the inferior must give way to the superior. This, our contemporary observes, has certainly been the case hitherto, but that does not prove that the custom was either good or just, and thinks it is the duty of the Association, of which it is the organ, to see that opinion on this point is altered.

In regard to trades unionism amongst nurses, to which *Medicus* takes exception, because the principle weapons of trades unions—strikes, boycotting, and the removal of black-legs—cannot be employed by them, our contemporary says: "As far as strikes are concerned, we are fully in accord with *Medicus*. From the nature of things, a trades union of nurses must be quite different from other trades unions. Whilst in other callings, the strife is between the interests of the employers and the interests of the workmen, in the nursing calling the employers and the workers are

bound to think first of the interests of the sick. Therefore, an association in our calling has to work on quite different lines from the associations of other callings. But," it asks, "because nurses cannot use the strike as a means of gaining their end, does it follow that they should not organise?" It suggests, as possible methods, general resignation and the suppression of black-legs, and cites the Middleburg case as a case in point. Here all the Sisters have sent in their resignations, to take effect in three months, as a protest against the general dismissal of one of their colleagues. But will they, by this legitimate action, be able to put an end to the conditions to which they object? "We doubt it," says our contemporary, "simply because nurses can easily be found to take the place, under the same conditions, of these women who have thrown their future into the balance for the right, because nurses can be found who make it possible for caprice and the abuse of power to go quietly on their way because they are still too backward, and too little able to appreciate honour and honesty, because the feeling of loyalty to their colleagues is absolutely wanting."

We are all acquainted with the genus "black-leg." She is common to all countries, and the best efforts of nursing organisations should be directed to dealing with her effectively.

The "order" recently issued to do with less medical officers, and three less nurses at the New Somerset Hospital at Cape Town, has naturally aroused distress amongst the staff, and it is earnestly to be hoped that wiser counsels will prevail—and that the obnoxious "order" will be rescinded.

In the meantime we regret to hear that Dr. Moffat, the very able Medical Superintendent, has resigned. His management has been signalled by every care for economy, where it did not interfere with efficiency, and the General Board have shown but little respect for the opinion of the members of the medical staff, who realise the fatal policy of overworking their doctors and nurses.

A correspondent writes: "Women are absolutely ignored out here, although they are great workers, and much for the general good and comfort of the community depends upon them." Of course! In a colony where men of every shade of colour, class, and nationality may vote, and white women are voteless, they are naturally classed with the beasts of burden, and treated as such! The lesson women should

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