

Report showed that a Superintendent and 33 nurse were connected with the private nursing branch, and 11 nurses had been at work amongst the sick poor, but as last year's income was less by £400 than that of the preceding one, and subscriptions and the surplus of the private nursing funds were insufficient to meet the expenses of the district nursing scheme, the number of nurses had been reduced by three. The reduced staff of nurses were now trying to undertake all the work formerly done by the larger staff, and, as a result of their unremitting labours, no parish had been abandoned. We think that the district nursing work should be supported by the alms of the faithful rather than on the profits of the private nursing staff.

The nurses at Edinburgh Parochial Hospital have protested to the Parish Council against their being deprived of any of the privileges of recreation and rest which they have hitherto enjoyed.

They state in a petition that they have no such recreation as croquet and tennis provided—not even a newspaper. Surely they might have as much fresh air as was compatible with the proper performance of their duties.

They request that the rules under which they came should still hold good, that the night nurses have their night off fortnightly, with no restriction as to spending it in the poorhouse, or returning to their rooms at 12 noon.

The time off duty for day nurses they protest is totally inadequate. One half-day a week, with half-an-hour after eight o'clock at night, with Sunday leave, was far too short.

The matter was remitted to a committee.

The Magazine and Chronicle of the Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, *The Passing Hour*, contains a touching account of one of the patients, "Lady Cecilia." "There are," we read, "not one or two, but many, like her in this S.D.A., who live in a world of their own, who are isolated through nearly every one of the senses from the actual world surrounding them, seeing visions and dreaming dreams, hearing voices and holding converse with unseen visitants. Not all, however, have visions of happy childhood, not all have heart and sense satisfied with the sweet innocence of a fairy troop. Alas, some of these poor dreamers are haunted by horrors, and their lives filled with torments and pains. There are but too many of these unfortunate ones to be found in our mental hospitals. A few, a very few, are blessed, like the lady of Kipling's story (*They*) with happy love-filled fantasies. When one comes across them, one

sees in their countenances the difference between them and others, for they wear a serenely happy expression, such as one might picture could be seen on the faces of those who had reached the Blessed Land where no tears are. One of these few is our "Lady Cecilia." . . . She is as gentle and refined as a lady of quality of the olden time. . . She has consolations all her own, and the events of the world around her pass by practically unheeded. Extreme care and the best and kindest of nursing—all of which she receives—are now required to keep her alive, and the day is probably not very far distant when she will slip quietly away to that place where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

At a meeting to be held at South Lodge, Rutland Gate, London, on May 2nd, it is proposed formally to found the National Society of Day Nurseries. The Society already maintains the Princess Christian Day Nursery at Hammersmith, and is assisting the opening of a new nursery at Fulham. It is opposed to relieving mothers from responsibility, and wishes the nurseries to be utilised as centres for teaching the care and rearing of infants, and certainly such centres are much needed. It will assist local committees to maintain nurseries on model lines, arrange for their inspection by medical officers, and for the amputation of all existing day nurseries. It also proposes to seek legislation for the appointment of inspectors, and to prevent anyone opening a crèche without a licence. Dr. Fookgood is chairman of the Committee and the founder, Miss Cecil Henland, 11, Kensington Court Mansions, W., is Hon. Secretary. The Society has great capabilities for useful work, and we hope has a prosperous future before . . .

The *American Journal of Nursing* says:— "The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland has recently been represented by its able secretary, Miss Breay, at a United Hospitals Conference in London, where Miss Breay plainly pointed out that, while the nurses themselves, with their friends, were contributing all the funds to defray the necessary expenses of the movement for registration, their chief opponent in London, the Central Hospital Council, is fighting them with funds contributed by the different hospitals represented in it, and these funds are, presumably, a part of the charitable contributions made by the public to the hospitals. If this be true (and the charge has often been made in print and never to our knowledge denied) it is a very pretty kind of graft indeed, and shows what the English nurses have to contend against."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)