

## The Nurses' Total Abstinence League.

A very pleasant gathering, convened by the Nurses' Total Abstinence League, was held at the London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, on Saturday last. Several songs and a trio were very well rendered by members of the nursing staff of the hospital, amongst whom there seems to be considerable musical talent. The chair was taken by Lady Whittaker, and an admirable address was given by Canon Barker, himself an excellent testimony to the fact that hard work can be done on strict teetotal principles.

The speaker said it was often his privilege to address nurses, of whose attainments he seems to possess a high opinion; indeed, few of those present could have recognised themselves in the portrait Canon Barker drew of the trained nurse. Referring to the letter recently published by certain medical men in favour of the use of alcohol, he said it would only have weight with those who wished to take alcohol. Sooner or later they would come to close quarters with temperance advocates. Meanwhile, he would like to ask these gentlemen whether, if alcohol were a food, it was not a dangerous food, and whether it were not advisable that doctors should recommend a food less dangerous? Secondly, if it were a food, how long they could live upon it? He thought that the temptation to nurses to give stimulants to patients who were in an exhausted condition must be considerable, but the Temperance Hospital answered the question as to the necessity for this completely. No one could allege that any patient there had suffered because alcohol was not prescribed.

Canon Barker spoke of the great importance of the Scottish Local Option Bill, the second reading of which had been carried in the House of Commons on the previous day, and referred to a Committee. The vote was one of the most remarkable ever taken, and he hoped that England would get the same power as Scotland. The speaker said that much as he loved people, if he were asked to go into a hospital and do the things which nurses had to do, he felt he could not. There was something wonderful in nurses, and the extraordinarily patient way in which they would do anything and everything. He referred also to the influence of the teetotal nurse, and the change in the type of nurse of recent years, the wonderful advance which had been made since the time when nurses, as portrayed by Dickens, were generally drunken.

Miss Orme, the former Matron of the Hospital, made a few brief remarks, and then all those present were most hospitably entertained to tea by the Matron, Miss Richardson, after which many visited the wards. The Children's Ward, with its walls of creamy tiles, with charming inset pictures of nursery rhymes came in for much admiration, and the floor of red tiles was said to be satisfactory in use.

## Report of the Exhibition of Social Work and Hygiene at Berlin.

By SISTER CHARLOTTE VON CAEMMERER.

From the 16th to the 22nd of March, an exhibition of social work and hygiene was held at the Berlin New Royal Opera House, formerly the "Establishment of Kroll." Sister Agnes Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, assisted, with many well-known persons, at the opening ceremony. Herr Rechnungsrat Freudenberg spoke in his address about the necessity of *voluntary* social work, as that of the municipality and State is not sufficient. He praised industry for having made great sacrifices, and for having taken great interest in this exhibition, without which the funds of the associations would have been taxed to the utmost. Herr Freudenberg related, that the founders of the "Reichsfecht-schule" first realised the idea of social care-taking. "Fechten" means here begging for the poor.

The members of the Reichsfechtschule collect cigar-tips and similar things, by the sale of which they have gathered funds which have enabled them to found and maintain *five* orphan asylums.

Concerning social work, the exhibition was very interesting; as to hygiene, it was less attractive. The various associations for social work exhibited the work of their pupils. Thus the Reichsfechtschule had sent the model of one of their orphan asylums, made throughout by the children. Electric lamps were fixed inside the model, therefore the whole house could well be seen from top to bottom with bedrooms and all. The pupils of the idiot asylum at Potsdam had manufactured a dolls' house with great skill. Besides, there were exhibited various samples of modelling in clay, e.g., flowers, leaves, and buds copied from nature by these children.

The association "Work to the Unemployed" occupied a table to show things in the used and battered state in which they are collected, and on the other hand well repaired, washed, ironed, mended, polished, and varnished, as poor people buy them for a small sum.

Concerning hygiene, the exhibition of Prof. Dr. Sommerfeld was especially valuable. He takes great interest in the health of tradesmen. By ceroplastics, preparations in alcohol and microscopic slides, he showed the bad consequences of workmen being poisoned with lead, colours, and other materials. He exhibited the lungs of a miner, being quite filled with coal-dust. Dr. Sommerfeld's preparations show that a great field for social

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