

this statement they can easily be given. The Dispensary known under the name of the "Assistance Maternelle et Infantile de Plaisance," which has been working in that very poor quarter of Paris since January, 1901, has seen the decrease of its expenses in proportion as suckling by the mother has increased. In order to prove this, we will compare the figures of two distinct years. In 1905 66 nursing mothers had been helped, and milk had been given to 129 infants, and the expenses amounted to 12,908 francs (£516 6s.). In 1906, 91 nursing mothers were helped, and milk given to 97 infants who were being brought up by hand, and the expenses were only 10,832 francs (£438).

In addition a more complete care of the family is assured, by the visits at the houses of a woman appointed to relieve the mother from the care of her household during the time of her confinement, so avoiding the necessity of her going to the Lying-In Hospital. This combination of works, which comprises also one for giving the women needlework in their own homes, has obtained in the quarter where it is working, the very best results.

The mortality amongst infants, which was 14.1 per cent. in 1901, had fallen in 1906 to 6.9 per cent., and amongst the immediate attendants at the Dispensary, that is to say, the infants entered there from 0 to 2 years, it was 2 per cent.

After laying the figures before you, there is no need to add anything more. Perhaps they will be sufficiently convincing to those who listen to us. Whether this be so or not, I should like to draw the attention of maternity nurses and those engaged in works which have for object the saving of child life to the study of a form of assistance which will give them when put into practice the surest elements of success.

### **Progress of State Registration.**

The State Registrationists are looking forward to a very busy winter, and the plan of campaign will be considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to be held in London the first week of October. From then onward until the meeting of Parliament in the new year trained nurses must urge by every means in their power the importance of legislation. After the question of Women's Suffrage, Nurses' Registration stands next in importance as a great social reform, and the subject is receiving increased support from intelligent persons, who realise

the value of trained nursing as a factor in the standard of national health. We must work unceasingly during the autumn and winter to interest and educate the public and members of Parliament in our great cause.

We commend to the consideration of nurses in this country some of the points placed by Miss Helen Scott Hay before the Nurses' Associated Alumnae, U.S.A., in her admirable paper at the Tenth Annual Convention, to which we have already made a brief reference.

It will be remembered that in many of the United States of America registration laws are already in force, and Miss Hay urges all registered nurses to realise their responsibilities, and the private duty nurse in particular.

She says: In the days gone by, sisters, you who have chosen the less public walks of life, have not the superintendents and public workers by dint of hard labour settled many of your difficulties, increased your opportunities, dignified your calling? And is it not time now that you reciprocate, and give them at least your opinion on the questions that are so long and so difficult in settling? Opinions, valuable because thoughtful opinions; because representing the points of view of those outside the ranks of institutional workers.

Miss Hay then proceeded to point out that the possession of registration laws, and their successful enactment, are but the first steps in the beginning of a large work that will require trained minds and strong hearts to maintain and carry forward. It has been the few, hitherto, who have fought the battles and "borne the burden and heat of the day." These leaders will some day be dropping out of the ranks. Woe to the state or association that is forced to give important commissions to the untried recruits of the day. And, if less than the drill and experience of years of working service is adequate preparation for leadership, then we must acknowledge our aims as poor and mean, as our claims to solidity and worth are preposterous.

I have spoken somewhat, said Miss Hay, of the responsibility of the registered nurse to herself, and to her profession. There is another relation where she has much to do if she would give that beauty and dignity to the title that we all crave for it—that is her responsibility to Society. One thing that will most certainly be expected in every nurse that bears the title is the spirit of altruism—the spirit that regardless of personal or professional gains—desires to do good to all men for the sake of helping them.

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