

by the American Society of Sanitary and Moral Prophylaxis, the object of which Society is to limit the spread of diseases which have their origin in the social evil. It proposes to study every means, moral and administrative, which promises to be most effective for this purpose. The society is composed of the medical profession and the laity, including women. We shall be pleased to forward a copy to any trained nurse or parent, stamp for postage to be enclosed.—Ed.]

#### A HEALTH CONSCIENCE.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—Sir Robert Morant says, in a prefatory memorandum to the latest regulations of the Board of Education for the training of teachers, which make School Hygiene a compulsory subject: "What has aptly been called a 'health conscience' is a necessary part of the equipment of a good teacher." How about the "health conscience" of the Board itself? What do the majority of its members know, or care, about hygiene? Very little, apparently, or our elementary schools would not be as they are at present—the principal foci of infection of many infectious diseases, such as measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, and scarlet fever, as the most obvious precaution against the dissemination of these diseases is consistently ignored by those primarily responsible for the management of the elementary schools.

American and Continental schools are systematically disinfected, not only in the presence of disease, but also as a preventive measure. The Scotch Education Department have adopted the same precaution, and in a memorandum on the subject, issued towards the close of last year, their reason for doing so is epitomised in a couple of sentences. "To cleanse a schoolroom properly," says the memorandum, "it is necessary to destroy the germ life as well as to remove the visible dirt. This is why periodic disinfection is advisable, even when no known infectious disease has been present."

The refusal of the educational authorities to avail themselves of a ready means of improving the hygiene of the elementary schools by weekly spraying of the school buildings with a disinfectant lotion bears striking witness to their lack of that "health conscience" to which Sir Robert Morant refers.

SCHOOL NURSE.

#### THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—The Encyclical Letter addressed by the Conference of Bishops, which last week concluded its sittings at Lambeth, to the members of the Anglican Communion throughout the world, records that the spirit of service is awake, witness the striking revival of missionary enterprise and zeal, the initiation of such new ventures as medical missions, and the increasing number of those who offer themselves for mission work. "That spirit is seen again in the recognition of social responsibility. Everywhere men and women are devoting themselves to work in those districts of

our great cities where the problems and the distress of poverty still confront us with their urgent, and awful claim. Women were first, and are still foremost in the field; our generation has seen notable developments of the work of sisterhoods, deaconesses, and district nurses. It has seen the rise of 'settlements' into which men and women bring their vigour and enthusiasm, their culture and capacity, to the service of their fellow men."

Dealing with the opportunities of service which the movements of civil life provide, the Encyclical states: "The democratic movement of our century presents one of these opportunities. Underlying it are ideals of brotherhood, liberty, and mutual justice and help. In those ideals we recognise the working of our Lord's teaching as to the inestimable value of every human being in the sight of God, and his special thought for the weak and the oppressed. . . . In so far as the democratic and industrial movement is animated by them and strives to procure for all, especially for the weaker, just treatment, and a real opportunity of living a true human life, we appeal to all Christians to co-operate actively with it."

A MISSIONARY NURSE.

### Comments and Replies.

*To Correspondents.*—All letters addressed to "A Health Missioner" have been forwarded. We hope to hear that a thoroughly trained nurse midwife has settled in the benighted district.

*Irish Matron.*—There is no reason why you should not write your opinion to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, or to any other official or Minister you choose. The truth is that the majority of mistakes about women's affairs, are made through ignorance, and not illwill. The fundamental mistake, of course, is that women who work and are thus compelled to compete in the industrial market, need the protection of the Parliamentary vote. It is most difficult to get the leisured class of women who are provided with all they require to realise this need.

#### NOTICE.

An application form for those who wish to become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be found on page iii. of cover. It will soon be too late to help on the important work of this Society. No habitual reader of this journal can, we feel sure, be content to stand aside and let others found the great Profession of Nursing. Now is the time to help.

### Notices.

#### OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page xii.

All competitions must be addressed to the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

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