

fact that the Women's Conference was naturally concerned with them at some length.

It is at length beginning to be recognised with us, as it has been recognised in Germany for many years past, that we must cease to look upon the child solely as the property of its parents, whose sacred right to bring it into the world, idiotic, syphilitic, or insane, and, when born, to treat it with criminal neglect or brutality, is unassailable. Slowly, but surely, the child is coming to be recognised also as the citizen of a great nation, as an individual owning the rights of citizenship, one of which is to be protected by the State. An almost unanimous desire was shown to ameliorate the condition of the child-citizen. I say "almost," for the unity of opinion was broken, and much amusement caused, by a Northern delegate, who was understood to affirm that there were a great many too many children in the world, and that the loss of some of them would be far from being a disadvantage.

In the main, the papers and discussions referred to children of school age, and were excellent in tone and in treatment. Strangely enough, the keynote of the matter as regards the medical inspection and treatment of school-children was struck, not by a medical man, but by two educationalists. "The nurse is the chief factor in the success of this work," was Mr. Barry's pronouncement, whilst Miss Alice Ravenhill, in an excellent address, reminded her audience that no nurse coming fresh from hospital was fitted without further experience and training to undertake the important and responsible work of School Nurse. Mr. Somerville, another educationalist, emphasised the existence of nurses *and* nurses, and urged discrimination between the two classes. He attributed the success which had so far attended the work of his Somersetshire Council as due to the influence of the women, and advocated the formation of district committees to deal with the schoolchildren and with the matter generally, composed of a strong body of women. This is a point to be noted by members of County Councils.

Spray baths, less crowded classes, daily disinfection of the school, of pens and pencils by the children themselves, provision for treatment of special diseases by the local authority, and the introduction of school clinics, were advocated by various authorities. But one and all acknowledge that the question of school hygiene in England was as yet in the experimental stage.

A. L. B.

## Nursing in Syria.

### THE AMERICAN TRAINING SCHOOL AT BEIRÛT.

A very pretty and interesting ceremony took place on June 17th at the American Syrian Protestant College, in the Post Hall, at Beirût. Three nurses were presented with their certificates, after a course of three years at the Maria de Witt Jessup Hospital for Women and Children, in the presence of a large audience of Turks, Syrians, and the Anglo-American Society.

The platform was prettily decorated with plants and flowers and the American flag. To this colouring was added that of the President Emeritus, and the present President, his son, Dr. Howard Bliss, D.D., both of whom wore the gowns of the American D.D., which are of black material, lined with violet and with bands of red velvet.

Dr. Howard Bliss, who took the religious portion of the ceremony read a suitable portion from the Bible, and said a short prayer, after which he called on the Rev. Dr. G. Post to speak, and to tell us of his prophecies and dreams with regard to their training school. But Dr. Post said he was neither a prophet nor a dreamer; he was a medical man and a practical man. For years past he had felt the need of native trained nurses, but he had not found the way of training them until this new hospital had been added to the School of Medicine, which was a part of the Syrian Protestant College. (The Johanniter Hospital, to which the school had been attached for the last forty years, is nursed by the Deaconesses of Kaiserswerth.) It had given him great happiness to be able to teach these young girls both in the lecture-room, the ward, and the theatre, and to know that they would go out of the hospital carefully trained. He then took a glittering packet out of his pocket, which disclosed three beautiful hypodermic syringes, which, he said, conveyed several lessons, viz., order, cleanliness, and usefulness. They were meant to save life and to relieve pain, which he hoped they would do; and, presenting each nurse with a syringe, he resumed his seat with a face full of zeal and ardour, which has not abated during his nearly fifty years of work in Syria.

Dr. Moore, who is a much younger man, and who has taken the keenest interest in this new hospital and in the training of Syrian nurses, was next called upon to speak.

All those who know me and my writing know that I am not the accurate Parliamentary journalist, but rather the impressionist, and having had neither pencil nor paper to take

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