

were, of course, kept separate, while bottles, nipples, night-gowns and sheets, were boiled daily. The strictest care in regard to these precautions was observed, and the mothers instructed in a like care at home.

The mothers were allowed to come and see their babies at any hour, but they did not stay at the camp unless a child was dangerously ill. On the recovery of a baby, it was sent home to make room for a sicker one, but the children's nurses visited it regularly to see that instructions were being carried out, and it was often surprising to find how many of the camp ideas had been observed, and how great an effort was being made to carry them out in the midst of discouraging home surroundings. Groups of neighbours and friends also visited the babies, giving excellent opportunities for instruction.

The camp was open from July 2nd until September 4th, during which time fifty-three babies were cared for at a total expense of \$252.61. We consider the plan a success, judged both by the good results gained by individual babies, and from the point of view of the education of the mothers.

The fact that it met a want was proved by the number of babies who came to it from all parts of the city, brought by the mothers and sent in by the doctors, by the eagerness with which the opportunity was sought, and the regularity of attendance even when distances were long and car fare hard to spare.

SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED.

The report that Miss Elkins, whose marriage with an Italian Royal Duke has been prevented, is to enter a hospital as a nurse in New York, has aroused romantic interest in this country. We recently received a visit from a girl journalist sent by a skittish morning daily, wanting information on the percentage of broken hearts which annually applied for treatment in our Nursing Schools. This quite seriously.

Quite an obsolete notion, we told her. Women's hearts are now-a-days very elastic—they may ache but they do not break, and a capable Matron would at once disqualify the damsel with so serious a physical disability, just as she would a woman with flat feet. A woman must be physically fit, to be worth training, and to be acceptable to the sick. The day for maudlin sentimentality is away in the back ages, and an infinitely more commonplace organ—i.e., the "tum tum"—plays a more important part in the life of a working woman than her heart. It has a most insistent method of making its claims apparent, morning, noon, and night—and, like "She," must be obeyed.

Progress of State Registration.

We have great pleasure in announcing that Lord Ampthill will again introduce the Nurses' Registration Bill into the House of Lords early in the coming Session. Parliament meets on the 16th of February, so that only six weeks remain in which to work for the furtherance of this important measure. A Public Meeting will be held in London in support of the Bill in February next.

A CONVINCING REPLY.

The following admirable letter by Miss Mollitt appeared in the *British Medical Journal* last week, in reply to an attack on registration and the Societies which advocate it, by Dr. Coutts, a member of the Central Hospital Council for London, and, as many nurses do not see that journal, we reprint it.

THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

SIR,—I have read with very natural interest the debate on the Nurses' Registration Bill in the General Medical Council, as well as Dr. Coutts's letter in the *British Medical Journal* of December 12th. It is a relief to find that the chief dread of the medical opponents to our Bill seems to be that the registration of nurses will create a body of inferior medical practitioners. As this is precisely one of those irregularities which the framers of the Bill desire to check, I do not think there is any danger such as those gentlemen who spoke in opposition to our Bill seem to apprehend; from first to last there is not a word in the Bill to suggest even the shadow of a right to practice medicine or surgery on the part of registered nurses. Our desire is to create a solid body of thoroughly trained and reliable nurses, on whose fitness for their work the public and the medical profession may rely, as far as is humanly possible. And we further desire that the trained and registered nurses shall have a reasonable control over their own professional status. For to obtain the full benefit of those qualities of self-reliance, self-respect, and professional honour, without which no working man or woman is worth his or her salt, nurses should certainly have a voice, and no uncertain voice, in the management of their own affairs. This, we believe, the Registration Bill will give them. No good nurse would ever desire to be an "inferior" medical practitioner. A woman who wishes to be a doctor can easily become one—a doctor is one thing, a nurse is another, but both require teaching and training; both are human beings, and, the world being what it is, both require a certain amount of professional control.

I do not think that Dr. Coutts will find that the claims of genuine special hospitals will be overlooked by the Nursing Council when it frames its curriculum for the training required from nurses; but even he must allow that the bogus training given in minute special hospitals and cottage hospitals should be stopped. Hospitals that are incapable of training probationers should not be

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