

affording comfortable support for pillows, and another canvas one, much on the principle of the one designed by Miss Huxley, which is found most useful in the less acute cases, and which, from its portability, cheapness, and the ease with which it can be scrubbed and sterilised, is specially useful in district nursing.

Another thing which specially interested me was the chair for heart cases, which I had already seen at the Shepherd's Bush Exhibition, but here it was in use, and the patient who occupied it seemed to find it exceedingly comfortable. It is fitted in front with a semi-circular padded rail on which the patient can lean forward and often obtain a comparatively good night in this position, when she would be restless and wakeful if in bed.

The nurses in the wards are not Hebrews, and, indeed, the Sister who was my escort, told me that during the whole time (some ten years) she had been in the hospital, only four Jewish nurses had obtained their certificates there. For this reason it seems unlikely that for a long time to come a Jewish hospital can have a trained nursing staff of that nationality, for, so far, very few Jewish women have adopted the profession of nursing, and the nurses to staff a Jewish hospital of any size are not forthcoming.

M. B.

### The National Council of Nurses.

Mrs. Strong has accepted the nomination of the Council to act as Vice-President in the interest of Scottish nurses. Mrs. Strong is well known throughout the nursing world, as the Matron for many years of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and as the originator in this country of the system of Preliminary Training for Nurses. Mrs. Strong has always been firmly in favour of the Registration—after an independent examination—of Trained Nurses.

Miss H. Todd, Matron of the Wandsworth Infirmary, and Miss L. A. Morgan, Matron of the Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill, and Hon. Secretary of the Fever Nurses' Association, have accepted the invitation of the Council to act as Directors.

Owing to the resignation of Miss Hurlston, Mrs. Lidyard has been elected by the Registered Nurses' Society as one of its representatives on the National Council.

We are glad to hear that several Matrons are considering the question of starting Leagues. When one realises what a vast amount of pleasure and profit the certificated nurses of a hospital gain by being associated together, one would like to find every Matron helping the nursing staff in this way.

### The Nurse in the Open-Air School.\*

BY DR. FREDERICK ROSE.

Open-air schools and school nurses are some of the tangible results of the introduction of school medical inspection into schools. School medical inspection, although it forms only a small part of the larger science of school hygiene, is nevertheless of the greatest possible value. Some of the advantages which will accrue to the nation from its introduction into England may be briefly enumerated. It will give us in a short time a national and comprehensive register of the state of the children's health; it will gradually raise the health standard of the whole nation; it will lead to a very great saving in educational expenditure, on account of the increased efficiency of school work; it will prevent an immense amount of discomfort and suffering on the part of school children; it will bring about a great saving to the community, by the prevention of disease at an early stage. How valuable its work is in foreign countries may be gathered from the following example:—

Out of 35,000 children examined for admission to school in Berlin in 1905, no less than 3,000 were rejected and sent back home, and 7,600 were put under special medical treatment.

Open-air schools were first started in Charlottenburg six years ago. Whilst examining children for admission, the school doctor found out that a certain number were suffering from incipient diseases, such as heart disease, lung disease, anæmia, general debility, and other complaints. He drew attention to the folly of putting such children in closed class-rooms, where their ailments would probably become aggravated. The school authorities, recognising the justice of this point of view, but being anxious on the other hand that the children should not fall back in their work, decided to found a new type of school, the open-air school. Quite briefly, the province of this new school is to cure and teach the children at the same time.

From the hygienic standpoint the children must be brought out into the open air; must be fed regularly and properly, given plenty of play and rest, and treated with fresh air, exercises, sunshine and baths. From the educational standpoint, the hours of formal instruction must be reduced by one half, and the rest of the instruction given in an informal, more interesting, and practical manner, and more in

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)