

"The Council of the Scottish Branch of the Institute has made more than one effort to arouse public interest in a scheme of nursing in the Highlands and Islands now under review, and would like to succeed in promoting the formation of a central organisation on the lines of the one so successful in Argyllshire. Queen's Nurses are at work in several districts of the mainland of Inverness-shire, and it is a pleasure to state that in December of last year a Queen's Nurse was placed at Kilmuir, in Skye, one of the districts instanced by the Commission as being greatly in need."

Superintendent Nurse Taylor, of the Workhouse, Keynsham, has resigned her post after two years' work, and informed the Board of Guardians in so doing that she found with a reduced staff her work was more than she could do conscientiously, and she would rather leave than see the patients and wards neglected.

The Local Government Board has written to the Guardians with reference to the nursing staff, and to their refusal to appoint another nurse in the place of Nurse Townsend, and reminding the Board that they were incurring a grave responsibility if they declined to provide the nursing staff the medical officer considered necessary.

The Board, however, decided to continue a course which sooner or later will, of course, end in a scandal. Conscientious nurses will not work short-handed, with the result that ignorant semi-efficient women are employed, to the untold suffering of the poor patients. Surely the Local Government Board has the power to put down nurse sweating if it chooses, and it should take a firm stand with recalcitrant Guardians, and insist upon just conditions of labour. It all comes back to the same old system—where women workers are employed—the maximum of drudgery for the minimum of pay.

The Oxo Competition.

£50 IN PRIZES

We desire to direct the attention of our readers to the fact that the reports in competition for the handsome prizes offered by Oxo, 4, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C., must be posted before December 10th. Full particulars of the competition will be found on page iii. of our advertisement columns in this issue. Many nurses are aware of the great value of Oxo as a recuperative agent, and as a usually acceptable article of diet in many acute diseases as well as in convalescence. If they are able to send reports of such cases, which will be treated confidentially, they may be the fortunate winners of valuable prizes.

The Food of the Gods.

To those who are interested in the whole subject of cocoa, its nature, growth, cultivation, manufacture, history, sources, and varieties, we commend a charming book by Mr. Brandon Head, published by Routledge, and entitled "The Food of the Gods," the illustrations of which are altogether delightful. An amusing account is given of the women of Chiapa, West Indies, in the seventeenth century (from Gaze's new survey of the West Indies), who apparently suffered from "much weakness and squeamishness of stomach, which they say is so great that they are not able to continue in church while mass is briefly hurried over, much less while a solemn high mass is sung and a sermon preached, unless they drink a cup of hot chocolate and eat a bit of sweetmeats to strengthen their stomachs." These dainties were accordingly brought to them in church in the middle of mass by their maids. The Bishop not unnaturally objected, and after "faire warning" took the extreme step of excommunicating the delinquents, and remained adamant in spite of protests. The women, finding him "hard to be entreated, began to slight him with scornful and reproachfull words," and, finally, one day there was "such an uproar in the Cathedral, that many swordes were drawn against the priests who attempted to take away from the maids the cups of chocolate which they brought unto their mistresses, who at last seeing that neither faire nor foule means would prevail with the Bishop, resolved to forsake the Cathedral; and so from that time most of the city betook themselves to the cloister churches, where by the nuns and fryers they were not troubled."

Later "the Bishop fell dangerously sick. Physicians were sent for far and neere, who all with a joynt opinion agreed that the Bishop was poisoned. A gentlewoman with whom I was well acquainted," says the historian, "was commonly censured to have prescribed such a cup of chocolate to be ministered by the page, which poisoned him who had so rigorously forbidden chocolate to be drunk in the church."

MESSRS. CADBURY'S CONFECTIONS.

To those who desire in modern days to obtain the "Food of the Gods" to perfection, we commend the confections of Messrs. Cadbury Bros., Ltd., Bournville, near Birmingham. Delicious in flavour, and put up in the daintiest way, no house at Christmas time should be without the Bournville Chocolate Biscuits. To mention only two which are sure to be appreciated, there is the "Esmond," a cream wafer biscuit, flavoured with lemon, orange, raspberry, and vanilla, and coated with the finest chocolate; and the "Croquette," a delicately flavoured biscuit, covered with milk chocolate. Cadbury's Dairy Milk Chocolate is a delicious confection, and the boxes of sweets supplied by this firm, always attractive, are specially so at this season, and, supplied at prices to suit everyone, make presents which are most acceptable to any child, and may be given with confidence in their absolute purity.

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