

the Poor Law Commission, as they affect School Children," the first being "The Case for the Minority," by C. M. Lloyd, and the second, "A Reply to the Minority," by Mrs. Helen Bosanquet, a member of the Poor Law Commission, and a Signatory of the Majority Report. Next month Mrs. Sidney Webb will contribute an article to this discussion. Another article is one on "School Feeding in Liverpool," which will be read with interest by School Nurses.

An interesting and useful piece of work is being carried on by Miss E. B. Kingsford, formerly Matron of the Metropolitan Hospital, N.E., and Miss B. Wright, also a trained nurse, in the Fallow Corner Home for Homeless Children at North Finchley. The Home, which has now been open for twelve years, aims at making a suitable provision for the first infants of unmarried girls whose former lives have been thoroughly respectable, and to provide sound education, healthy surroundings, and careful attention for the children, and so to lay a stable foundation whereby they may develop into healthy, useful members of the community, instead of being the stunted, ill-nourished specimens of humanity which only too often result from unscrupulous baby-farming. As the report of the Home points out, this is an age when much is said about "race culture," and special interest is evinced in the welfare of children. If this be so, it is impossible to over-estimate the importance of judicious care during the early years of life. The Home exists to give a fair chance to children who from the force of circumstances are debarred the advantages of home life. It takes those who are most heavily handicapped, and more at the mercy of the world than any others, and tends them during their years of helplessness, thus preparing them to become useful citizens, fit to undertake the duties of life, and haply to transmit an improved strain to a future generation. Nurses could scarcely undertake a more useful work, and we wish Miss Kingsford and Miss Wright all the success they deserve.

Mrs. Hill, Chettle, Blandford, Dorset, writes to the *Times*, calling attention to the action of the Government of the Malay States in closing the European Hospital at Seremban, which she describes as "both ill-advised and unjust." She writes:—

"Seremban is the chief town of a large, and to Europeans an unhealthy, district, given up to rubber planting, and supporting a considerable and increasing European population; and for the last eight years a hospital has been maintained there by the Government for the use of this European

population. . . . Every year it has become more useful and more necessary. Large new areas of rubber estates have been opened up; there are many more Europeans, and consequently many more cases of fever. Yet now of all times, and without even making an appeal for subscriptions from the local residents and those interested in the country, to which a ready response would assuredly have been given, the Government have closed the hospital, and there is now, I understand, no place at Seremban where Europeans can be nursed. The reason given for this step is that the hospital gave too much work for one nurse, but not enough for two; and so, in the interests of economy and to avoid incurring the expense of providing a second nurse, who would not at once be fully occupied, the hospital has been abandoned altogether. . . . The Government derive large revenues in land-rents and duties from the rubber estates which these European planters have done so much to develop, and one would suppose that it would be wise as a mere matter of prudence to make some provision for the health of those to whom it is so largely due that there are any revenues at all. . . . It is the duty of a Government to help and encourage its subjects, and not to neglect their greatest needs; and as one who formerly resided in this State, and has many friends who reside there still, I feel bound to make this protest against the action of the Government in closing a hospital which was so essential to the welfare of all Europeans living in those parts."

We agree thoroughly with Mrs. Hill that it is of the utmost importance that the Government should conserve the health of settlers in the Malay States, but what strikes us as outrageous is that any hospital can be worked by one nurse! Is it conceivable that no provision is to be made for the nurse to be off duty night or day? No hospital should be sanctioned where a staff of less than three nurses can be maintained—two for day duty (one to relieve the other) and one for night duty. A less staff spells sweating—a custom very prevalent at home in our cottage hospitals—where the women's work is concerned.

Dr. George M. Robertson, Physician-Superintendent of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, has always been a warm supporter of the adoption of hospital methods in asylum management, and of the employment of nurses who have received a general training in the responsible positions. In an exhaustive report on the working of the Asylum he describes the history of the past year which, he says, may be summed up in the word "organisation." Craig House, on Craiglockhart Hill, intended for people of means, and the West House in the Morningside district, are both governed by the managers of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum. The nursing

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