

against these institutions, and the volume of scandalous tales which roll forth whenever they are mentioned makes one's ears tingle even to think of."

Of one West-End Institution it is reported that "This Home is known for the fact that 'in turn or out, it was always the younger and prettier nurses who were, if possible, put on duty with, or sent away to attend, male patients, and the whole place is a hot-bed of scandal, bad management, and consequent notoriety.'"

Under the heading, "A Widespread System of Social Vice and Infamy," the subject is further discussed in the issue of May 21st, where we read:—

"It is now evident that under the titles of 'Nursing Homes,' 'Homes of Rest,' 'Massage Institutes,' etc., there is in London a vast network of establishments catering for the gratification of the most depraved and abandoned forms of vice and infamy," a statement which is amply supported by evidence. The articles are to be continued in subsequent issues, and we commend them to the attention of the hospital world.

THE NURSING PROFESSION AND THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

Confirmatory evidence of the conditions whereby so-called nursing and massage homes are in reality nets spread wide in the interest of the White Slave Traffic is to be found in a series of papers reprinted from *M.A.P.* in a sixpenny booklet entitled "The White Slave Traffic," published at 17 and 18, Henrietta Street, W.C. Every nurse should spend sixpence on this booklet and read especially the chapter on the above subject. We agree with the writer that "it is particularly abominable when advantage is taken of medical terms and professional titles to cloak the most hideous malpractices."

In this article massage establishments are more particularly dealt with, and young women are warned as to the real nature of many of these places.

The editorial remarks of the *Practitioner* on the subject of veiled advertisements are here quoted:—

"The action of the local authorities in driving Aspasia and her more shameless followers from off the public streets has led, amongst other devices, to a system of disguise. Hence it happens that, included among the advertisements of nursing homes and institutions for massage, etc., are advertisements of places where Aspasia revels supreme. . . . It is intolerable that Aspasia should adopt as a disguise one of the noblest callings to which her purer sisters can devote themselves."

This, the article continues, is the indictment of a medical journal, and every right-minded man or woman will agree that this abuse of a nurse's uniform must cease. As the result of a recent prosecution it transpired that the so-called nurses in one of these establishments drew the princely salary of ten shillings weekly each. Anything more they made for themselves as they could. The woman in charge of the house was paid a considerable sum for the treatment she was to supply, and which, of course, was duly supplied by her poor slaves. In this particular instance the

line had been over-stepped, and the attendants were kept in a semi-nude condition, hence the police intervention.

We have directed attention to these appalling conditions because publicity is the surest method of grappling with the evil. Further, the article referred to points out the necessity for the registration of nurses by the State, and draws attention to Lord Ampthill's Bill. It claims that the effect of such a Bill would be as much for the protection of nurses as of the public, and declares: "Were a Bill on these lines passed into law there would be an end to the scandal of the massage establishment, an end to the spurious nurse, and an end to the procuress—for that is what she really is—who, by means of alluringly-worded advertisements, attracts young girls to a doom in comparison with which the streets are as nothing. No more detestable or atrocious misuse of the nurses' uniform can be imagined. . . . It is high time that the medical authorities looked to guarding with greater jealousy the honour of their sister profession."

THE PURE FOOD EXHIBITION.

The Pure Food and Allied Trades Exhibition, which opened on Monday at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, and is remaining open throughout the week is the first of its kind held in this country, but it should have a steadily increasing popularity, not only because of the attractive exhibits, but that the public may know what to avoid in the way of faked and unwholesome foods. For instance, after practical illustration of the methods by which some cocoas are adulterated by such substances as ochre, sulphate of lime, and red lead, they will turn with relief to the one exhibited by the Frame Food Co., Ltd., Stander Road, Southfields, S.W., which is guaranteed pure.

Again coffee is adulterated with such nauseous material as ground, scorched, and dried livers, probably of an unclean character; potted meats are spiced to conceal the flavour of decomposition; and fillets of haddock may be a cheap variety of fish, dyed. No description of the way faked food is produced, however, can make the same impression as a sight of the ingredients used. Our readers should see them for themselves.

A DESERVING CHARITY.

A Bazaar in aid of the Rebuilding Fund of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, W., was held in the new building on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The new wards were utilised for this purpose, and it is manifest that when they are opened to patients they will be bright, airy, and spacious, with a pleasant outlook over the green square.

Energetic stallholders offered many attractive wares for sale, the provision stall, the flower stall, and one devoted to baskets of many kinds being extremely attractive. The nursing staff of the hospital had a miscellaneous stall, where many dainty articles had a ready sale. An afternoon concert on Wednesday, and a cinematograph entertainment on both days were great attractions, and we hope a substantial sum will be realised for this deserving charity.

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