

in, and many must be refused unless the receipts are greatly increased.

A house is now being set apart for mothers and infants, specially supervised by a competent person. By this scheme it is hoped not only to prevent those in other houses from being disturbed by children, but also that many valuable lessons in the management and feeding of young children may be learnt from the lady who is undertaking the task of supervision. This scheme entails some extra expense, and the Committee are anxious that the numbers should not be reduced as a result of an experiment from which they hope much good will come. Subscriptions and donations will be gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, A. S. Daniell, Esq., Fairchildes, Warlingham, Surrey, or by Miss Crawford, Secretary, Women's Holiday Fund, 76, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.

Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, replying in the House of Commons to Mr. Butcher's criticisms in regard to the boarding out of children within poor law unions, said that as far as possible he had kept the pledge he gave a year ago. In April of this year three highly skilled inspectors were appointed. He was now engaged in appointing a fourth woman inspector for Wales and the West of England—one with a knowledge of the Welsh language. Since June the number of women inspectors had been increased from three to seven. They were the best possible women for the posts, with a knowledge of hospital, infirmary, and institutional life that previous inspectors did not have.

*Truth* has some trenchant remarks to make on the amount of domestic work done by probationers in training. "Granting that practical efficiency in this work is necessary there is no reason why the instruction should be enforced to the extent of breaking down the pupil's health. What strikes me is that a great deal of rough work of this kind is thrown upon nurse-probationers for no better reason than to get it done cheaply. This is simply the educational principle employed by Mr. Squeers:—

"C-l-e-a-n, clean, verb active, to make bright, to scour. W-i-n win, d-e-r winder, a casement. When the boy knows this out of the book he goes and does it."

The "Memories" of a hospital nurse, published by Messrs. John Wright and Sons, Ltd., Bristol, are, as the author herself tells us, the simple recital of "What has really happened

to real people." Her stories are told with restraint, and with due regard to the fact that the confidences of the sick room, and the privacy of the family life and circumstances surrounding it cannot be violated. The writer began her training many years ago in a small hospital in a large northern town, and writes: "Looking back now in the light of many years of nursing experience, I have nothing but gratitude and admiration for the training I received in that place. Since then I have received training and certificates in other institutions for the sick, even including a large well-known London hospital, but in my 'heart of hearts' I still acknowledge that whatever success I may have won in my career I owe mainly to that unpretending unrecognisable training school. . . . Perhaps the secret of the singular success of the training lay in these words: '*Best for the patients.*' They were expressed in the whole atmosphere of the place, and were, if I may put it so, the war-cry of our leaders."

Miss Honoria C. Burgess writes to the *Australasian Nurses' Journal* from Palmerston Hospital, where she is a Staff Nurse along with semi-trained nurses. Owing to Government red tape, an undisciplined semi-trained nurse cannot be removed for impertinence. The Matron, therefore, resigned, and it was suggested by the medical officer in charge that one of the three nurses be appointed to the position of Matron by *drawing lots*! Miss Burgess concludes, "I think I might be safe in stating that no trained nurse has brought down the standard of her Association to drawing lots for a position with uncertificated women; hence my resignation."

All sorts of topsy-turvydom seems possible in these days of nursing chaos. It is quite certain that the "Bart's" lesson will be taken to heart all over the world, and give an immense impetus to the demand for legislation to protect Nursing Standards and discipline.

### Truth About State Registration in the United States of America.

LETTERS TO MISS L. L. DOCK.

State Board of Examiners of Graduate Nurses,  
Portsmouth, Virginia.

In Virginia we find that State Board examinations are generally quite an incentive to pupil nurses to study, and to their nurse and M.D. instructors to be more careful of their teaching. In

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