

Nursing Echoes.



We learn from Miss Goodhue, Hon. Secretary to the Territorial Force Nursing Service for the City and County of London, that many of the nurses of this branch of the Service who are invited by the Lady Mayoress to a Mansion House Reception on October 10th — notified in our columns last week—are uncertain whether they should attend in uniform or evening dress. We are asked to state, therefore, that indoor uniform is correct, and would be preferred.

Miss Donaldson, Matron of the Mount Vernon Sanatorium, Northwood, writing in the current issue of *Wings* on "The Nursing Profession and the Drink Problem," says:—"The nursing profession to-day is face to face with the greatest social problem of the age—the drinking habits of England. Nurses, in their varied ranks, penetrate into corners and creeks of the social stream which have, up till now, been unexplored by reformers. It behoves every member of the profession, therefore, to settle with herself the side of the drink question on which she is prepared to expend her energy and influence. Before everything else, her own personal conviction is essential. The backbone of resolute action is conviction; it is conviction alone which enables a man, when others are sinking in the sands of expediency, to stand upon the rock. To a nurse trained to be an accurate observer of facts, with the one simple desire to arrive at and know the truth about her patients, conviction on this great question will not tarry. No matter where her work takes her, she will have eyes to see what others may miss, and ears to hear what others hear not; and with such material at hand, and with so many of the greatest scientists of our age, eager and able to translate the significance of the facts she has gathered, conviction that her attitude must be one of complete antagonism to the drink traffic will be overwhelming. We can almost hear her cry aloud, 'We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen.'"

At a meeting of the Southwark Guardians, when the Infirmary Committee recommended that an armchair, a table, and twenty small chairs should be re-covered with best red morocco, Mr. Cornell enquired why best

morocco leather? He was prepared to say that even the Metropolitan Asylums' Board never aspired to best morocco. Mr. Cornell also had a pertinent remark to make about the further proposition that a couch, two easy chairs, four small chairs, and a hassock in the Matron's room should be re-covered at a cost of £7 10s. He said that the new Matron had not yet been appointed, and it was rather early to say how her furniture should be upholstered. The pattern had, however, been chosen, and, having seen it, he was of opinion that if she was a self-respecting lady, she would put the furniture outside the door. Why not let the incoming Matron select the material herself when she may have to live with the furniture for the whole of her working days?

At an inquest recently held on a little boy who died in the Southwark Union Infirmary, the mother asserted that a girl of ten dressed and fed her baby. Asked by the Coroner what the nurses were doing, she replied that they "seemed to be always cleaning brass work. A woman from the kitchen takes the bread and milk, or bread and butter, round, and leaves it on the beds, and my little baby had to eat his with his fingers when the little girl did not feed him."

"An appreciative Teacher" writes in the *Schoolmistress* of the School Nurse:—"Being a mistress of one of the poorest schools in a large city, I should like to give a few ideas as to the ultimate good done by the School Nurse. She is a 'new institution,' if I may so call her, and a most necessary one. Before having her, sometimes, I felt it impossible to eradicate or even to help to cleanse the poor, dirty mites with whom I am daily in contact. The staff and myself were never ceasing in our endeavours to make the children more wholesome and cleanly. By daily lessons, by showing the difference between cleanliness and dirt, by mending torn clothing, providing the girls with hair ribbons and combs, and doing all that lay in our power, still we did not get the effect we wished. All our influence was lost, mainly because we could not get at the root of the whole matter. We could not touch the parents and the homes, so all our efforts were only temporary, as home surroundings undid all that could be done.

"Many abuses I have personally received from the parents for my so-called 'interference,' which was really an act of goodwill. I was almost in despair at my school ever being in a healthier and more cleanly state when our education authorities established the 'School Nurse.'

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