

away. Instead, those who have the gift of medical and scientific common sense are now looking out for the ultimate causes of obstruction to nasal breathing, and one has been discovered.

THE ULTIMATE CAUSES OF OBSTRUCTION.

"This discovery is as simple as the discovery of America now seems. Any cause which tends to close the nostrils will prevent the free circulation of air in the nose and naso-pharynx. If the air does not circulate freely, these parts lack opportunity to exercise their functions, and this favours the growth of adenoids. Now, what is the commonest obstruction in the nose of a little child? Mucus, of course. The child must be taught to use the handkerchief, and keep the nose clean. I have recently put this to the test, and I find that many little children with enlarged tonsils and adenoids have also an uncared for, dirty nose, blocked with mucus, often black, indicating how long it has been there. This excellent and sensible idea should at once be made available to teachers, children, and parents, and the school doctor, if in touch with teachers, children, and parents, is the one who could do it.

HANDKERCHIEFS A FACTOR IN PROMOTING HEALTH

"We may find out that the handkerchief is second only to the tooth brush in promoting health. It is in the many matters of which these are only examples, that the medical officer of your Board may justify his or her existence—and, incidentally, earn his or her salary. But the instructions do not contemplate this.

MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITIES SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON SCHOOL TEACHERS.

"Moreover, the initial work and responsibility of medical inspection should not rest as is apparently intended by the instructions, upon the teachers, already hard-worked and without medical knowledge. Cases of cardiac disease, of pulmonary disease, of infectious disease in a very early stage, etc., cannot be discovered by anyone except a physician. Here is a case in point, quoted by an English authority. The school doctor went into the classroom, and while there said to the headmistress:—

" 'I think I had better see that pale little girl.'

" 'Oh!' said the headmistress, 'it is no use you seeing that child. That family are all the same. They are starved; that is the trouble.'

"No doubt she was right enough about the starvation. But when the school doctor examined the chest the poor girl was found to be the victim of an incurable and rapidly fatal form of heart disease, and must have suffered

needless pain from compulsory school attendance. She died within three months."

Lack of space forbids us to quote further from this interesting letter, but it will be realised that Dr. MacMurchy has submitted to the Board of Education a very expert and valuable opinion, and her patriotic feeling is evidenced by the conclusion of her letter where she writes: "I was born a citizen of Toronto, and I would die happier if I could think that I had done something for the children in the dear city of my home. . . . I have laid this matter before you because if I am to do my best for the Board of Education and for the city of Toronto I must have some liberty of action."

It is impossible to doubt that this liberty will be conceded.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held on Thursday, 20th inst., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, in the chair. After the minutes were confirmed, the following report was presented.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Since our last meeting on July 8th your President has addressed meetings of nurses at the General Hospital, Birmingham, the Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, the Central London Sick Asylum, Hendon, and the Central London Sick Asylum, Cleveland Street, W., and on each occasion the audiences expressed themselves as very interested and sympathetic.

THE PRESS.

A considerable amount of interest has been aroused in the press on the Registration question. A prolonged correspondence has been published in the *Glasgow Herald* and the *Scotsman* chiefly in relation to the registration of Fever Nurses; and the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* also published a sympathetic article on the question, followed by some correspondence. The admirable article in the *Fortnightly Review* in July by the Hon. Albinia Brodrick, entitled "Thou Shalt do no Murder," was a most convincing argument in favour of State Registration, the weight of which may be estimated by the hostile criticism to which the article has been subjected.

The *Nineteenth Century and After* for August contained an article by Lord Ampthill ably summarising the articles by your President and the Hon. Sydney Holland which appeared in the two previous issues, proving with convincing logic the case for State Registration.

SUPPORT OF BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association, held in London in July, the following Resolution was moved by Dr. E. W. Goodall, seconded by Sir Victor Horsley, and carried *nem con.*

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