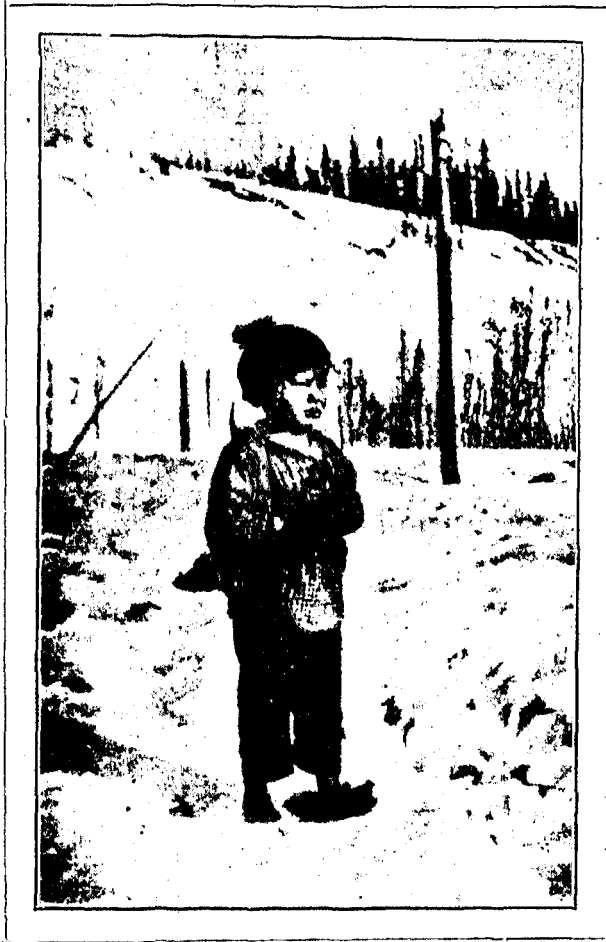


tion the increase of staff as soon as possible, so that the night nurses may be given two nights off every fortnight instead of every three weeks. The large majority of Poor Law infirmaries are understaffed in the nursing department, and nurses must in the near future be steadily increased if the class of woman desirable is to be encouraged to continue this indispensable work for the very poor.

Dr. J. F. J. Sykes, Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of St. Pancras, has presented a report to the Borough Council on the subject of measles, which is arousing much interest. Measles, as is well known, is a most dangerous disease to very young children, and formerly, if an outbreak occurred in a school, the whole school was closed; more recently it has only been considered necessary to close the class room where the outbreak occurred, and those class-rooms where a large number of children are infected. Many Medical Officers of Health, however, including Dr. Sykes, consider that all very young children should be excluded entirely. Dr. Sykes says: "When it is definitely known by notification that measles has entered the infants' department of a school it is too late to take any effectual precautionary measures, and temporary total exclusion (or closure) of the department, or of a class, will probably only temporarily delay further extension of the disease. . . . I am further of opinion that nothing short of the permanent exclusion from school of children under five years of age at least will help to reduce the mortality from measles, and if extended to six or even seven years of age—that is, the

commencement of the second teething—it would be still more effectual."

As an alternative to young children remaining at school, Dr. Sykes advocates that a systematic attempt be made to train mothers in mothercraft. He says: "The desideratum for infants, and very young children, is not education, but training upon material and domestic lines, training of the functions, the habits, the senses, and the physical actions and mental ideas in due sequence, through the first early years of life."



"Before the white man, mine were the spaces—the snows—and the Silence."

#### ON THE LAIRD RIVER, CANADA.

In this connection we are reminded of the immense pleasure derived from a gramophone by the little convalescents at the Muirfield Home at Gullane during a recent visit we paid to that institution. The Pied Piper was nothing to it. Just turn on a tune and all the chicks were drawn towards it as if by magic. Maimed and halt it mattered not, they clustered round, and how sweetly they joined in chorus. There was "Wee Wullie," his little gelatinous legs like

A pathetic headline, "Nurses' Dull Time," caught the eye in a Sheffield paper. It is reported that the nurses at the Conisbro' Isolation Hospital have plenty of work, but little to amuse them in leisure hours. To this condition of affairs the Committee recently gave kindly consideration. The Matron proposed a gramophone to cheer them up, and the Medical Superintendent said, "it was all bed and work for the nurses, and they had no papers to read!" The Board decided to spend 2s. a week on literary food for the mind. We hope they will add a gramophone; it really is a most cheery instrument, and sick people just love it.

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