

for those living at home in easy communication with nursing centres, to realise that fifteen years ago, in many of our Colonies, no nursing aid whatever was obtainable, while in others the patients had to travel great distances to obtain such aid as the Government Hospital, if such existed, could afford.

The Colonial Nursing Association, which owes its origin to Lady Piggott's initiative, has done a most useful work in bringing skilled nursing within the reach of British men and women resident in Crown Colonies, who are willing to pay for their services, and in removing the reproach that the vast majority of English people rested content, and made little inquiry as to what befel their countrymen and women landing daily on far-distant shores.

The reasons given by the Matron of the Southwark Infirmary, Miss Isabel Kemp, for her resignation were that she was overworked, that the accommodation for the nurses was insufficient, and that she was not allowed to select her own staff. At a recent meeting of the Guardians Mr. Osborn urged that the repeated complaints as to overcrowding should be resolutely dealt with. He had been to the Infirmary and seen the conditions for himself and was emphatically of opinion that immediate steps should be taken with respect to the whole position. The Rev. D. Bryant also pointed out that while there was no scandal the staff were undoubtedly overworked, and there was overcrowding. Eventually it was agreed to consider the matter of Miss Kemp's resignation in committee.

The Nurses' National Total Abstinence League, which is in connection with the Women's Total Abstinence Union, had a very active year of work during 1909, and is able to record an increase of 114 new members. Many pleasant meetings have been held in hospitals, infirmaries, and private houses to promote social intercourse, and stimulate interest in the subject of total abstinence, of extending the sphere of the League, and increasing its membership. The Certified Midwives have also a Total Abstinence League federated to the above Union, of which Dr. Annie McCall is President. The Midwives and Monthly Nurses have now different badges and pledge cards, and the new badges are greatly appreciated.

Most authorities condemn the feeding bottle with tube for babies, but in France they have gone beyond the domain of condemnation—the Chamber and Senate have prohibited their use

absolutely. The presidential decree was promulgated on July 9th, and after October 9th the sale will be a thing of the past. Not only will the old familiar bottle be interdicted, but any one contravening the Act will be heavily fined, all bottles will be confiscated, and offenders will be liable, further, to a term of imprisonment of any duration from eight days to three months. It is not through indifference of the State that the infantile mortality in France is not diminished.

Two members of the Board of Administration of the public hospitals at Lorient, a great seaport in France, have resigned, one of them, Mons. Tanguy, on the ground that "everything is going badly in our hospitals, especially the female nurses." It is assumed that the reason for the scandals which are alleged to exist is that lay attendants have been substituted for the religious Sisters, but the probable reason is to be found in the deficient organisation of the nursing. If the members of the Board of Administration visited the Nursing School of the *Assistance Publique* at the Sâlpêtrière Hospital, Paris, or those under the superintendence of Dr. Hamilton and of Miss Elston at Bordeaux, they would realise that lay nursing is not incompatible with excellence. The pity is that such schools are so few, but they are training a succession of pupils, who will become Superintendents of other lay nursing schools, and introduce the methods and standards of excellence which they have learnt to practise. Some of the certificated pupils of these schools are already doing excellent pioneer work.

We are pleased to catch glimpses of our American friends through the *American Journal of Nursing*. Miss Hibbard writes from Havana: "We had a very serious explosion of dynamite at Pinar del Rio on May 18th. The news of the disaster being telegraphed to the President, relief was organised at once under several groups, the Secretary of Sanitation leaving Havana with eighteen nurses and ten doctors just one hour and a half after the news came. The nurses under Senorita Margarita Nunez and Senorita Martini, the Superintendent of the Mercedes Hospital, are doing excellent work and have been on duty on the spot since the 18th. This is the first time the Cuban nurses have been called to a scene of national disaster, and I do feel so proud of them; all I hear is praise of their work and appreciation of the spirit they have shown. The nurses went by Government order, as they could be mobilised much more quickly than by the Red Cross."

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