

Moral and Physical Health.

A special meeting of nurses and midwives was recently held at Bath, when the speaker was Dr. Marion Linton. She took as the basis of her address a leaflet recently published by the Nurses' Social Union, entitled "Suggestions for Nurses on some Special Points connected with Moral and Physical Health."

Dr. Linton pointed out that, except in abnormal and defective children in whom the animal nature runs supreme, bad habits in quite young children are generally due to accidental causes, such as local irritation caused by uncleanness, need for circumcision in boys, tight nether clothing, improper diet, etc., and can generally be stopped by the removal of the cause. Moral deterioration in these young children is not a usual result of these habits, as they can be so easily checked in their early stages. With older boys and girls the case is different, and here moral evil, as a result of self-abuse, seems widely spread in our schools, etc. Dr. Linton's advice was that as soon as a child begins to notice and question he should be wisely and delicately told the use of those God-given organs and the need to preserve them for that use by healthy living and self-control.

Dealing with the question of abortion, Dr. Linton pointed out the grave evils resulting from the practice both physiologically and morally. The only remedy to be found for the present state of affairs lies, Dr. Linton holds, in the readjustment of the moral relations of men and women. Conception, as she pointed out, is a definite physiological act, and those individuals who attempt to escape from the physiological results of that act are really yielding to passion and self-gratification regardless of individual and racial well-being. That this act should only take place for the purposes of reproduction would be the sexual physiological ideal. It is an ideal perhaps almost impossible of realisation, but one can teach that the only legitimate means to employ to avoid the result of one's actions are by the exercise of abstinence and self-restraint, and that no man was ever the worse, but on the contrary the better, for mastering his passions and practising continence. The root of the whole matter lies in the right appreciation of the moral relations between the sexes, and here much teaching is necessary. Man needs to realise his use and woman's use in the world, and to respect both. Women need to raise men, and by their purity and dignity of life to win their respect. Women create their own place in the world, and will never get rid of the difficulties and disabilities under which they suffer until they show men they are worthy of something better, and how, too often, alas! women sin, as well as are sinned against.

What we need is a race of men and women who will combine to train their children in self-respect and purity. There are many wrong conditions in the world, but if we get the moral atmosphere right those things matter less, and we shall, moreover, get them altered through the weight of concerted public opinion.

Legal Matters.

FRAUDS BY A BOGUS NURSE.

At Hampstead last week, before Dr. Weaver and other magistrates, Maud Picot, aged 22, of no occupation, was charged on remand with obtaining money by false pretences from Mrs. Winifred Wolff, of Chesterford Gardens, and Mrs. Edith Thompson, of Brondesbury.

Evidence was given on behalf of the police that the prisoner came from Jersey, and had respectable parents. About 12 months ago she went to Plaistow to be trained as a nurse, but was disobedient and unruly and was dismissed. Since then she had run up bills for board and lodging in various places, and had also obtained money on false pretences, going about in nurse's uniform. In one instance she represented to a young woman that she could secure her admission to a nursing home, and obtained 7s. 3d. from her for special clothing, but the victim had not been able to obtain admission to the home. In books found in her lodgings since her arrest the names of hundreds of people were entered for various sums amounting to about £30.

The Bench remanded the prisoner with the object of finding a home for her. Mrs. Wolff protested against this leniency, stating that it would deter ladies from coming forward to prosecute in such cases. Dr. Weaver promised that the Bench would give her remarks consideration at the hearing this week.

The trial of Dr. Pantchenko and Count O'Brien on the charge of murdering Captain Bouturlin, by inoculating him with the germs of diphtheria, is causing great interest in St. Petersburg; the so-called doctor is further charged with illegally practising as a doctor of medicine. At one time the accused obtained employment as a doctor on the Trans-Siberian Railway, and later he worked in one of the military field hospitals. There he formed a friendship, according to the *Daily News* correspondent, with an elderly hospital nurse, Mme. Muravieva, and they returned to St. Petersburg together, where they appear to have been associated in medical work of a shady kind. This Mme. Muravieva is now charged with being an accessory to the murder of Captain Bouturlin.

Wherever the bogus medical man undertakes practice of a questionable character he is pretty certain to seek to secure the co-operation of the woman "described as a nurse."

Presentation.

Miss Stuart, Lady Superintendent of the Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool, has been presented with a cheque for £150, a silver salver, and a chain and locket, on the completion of her twenty-fifth year of work, by past and present nurses who have been trained under her, and past and present medical practitioners who have worked with her. The presentation was made by Dr. Alexander, who said that to those who knew the tremendous turnover of patients in that large hospital it was simply

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)