

formally opened at Deal by the Mayor, Mr. Alderman Edgar. The home is an outcome of the generosity of the Lloyd family, the founders and proprietors of *Lloyd's News*, who well know how wearing is a printer's work in its various branches.

The London Printing and Allied Charity Sports Association, of which the secretary is Mr. H. F. Parker, has collected funds for the endowment of seven beds, and by March it is hoped to have endowed another three. It should be the aim of every newspaper to help to support a bed.

LEGAL MATTERS.

A BROKEN AGREEMENT.

We are always sorry to see Nursing Associations engaged in litigation with their nurses, but so long as women are trained at the expense of associations, and enter into long terms of agreement of service, disputes are certain to arise occasionally.

At the Canterbury County Court, Judge Shortt had, last week, to consider an action brought by the Kent County Nursing Association against Miss Matilda E. Moxham, of Barham, from whom they sought to recover £8 damages.

Mr. A. K. Mowll appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. G. M. Kingsford for defendant.

Mr. Mowll said it was not disputed by the defendant that there had been a breach of agreement. The defendant was a nurse trained by the Kent County Nursing Association, and on the 28th of December, 1907, entered into an agreement with the association by which she agreed to undergo a course of nine months' training at Plaistow, and afterwards to serve the association as district or monthly nurse in any place to which they might appoint her for a term of three years from the completion of her training. By Clause 5 of the agreement it was set out that in the event of a nurse failing to carry out the terms of her agreement she should forfeit and pay to the association such a sum not exceeding £15, as they might require, and provided such failure should be due to ill-health the association would take that fact into due consideration. In regard to this particular nurse, when she completed her training at Plaistow, she was sent down by the association to Lyminge, and she was there until January of 1911. Unfortunately, the doctor declined to give the nurse, who went as a sort of general factotum to the doctors in these local districts, any more work, and the result was that the association had to ask her to transfer herself from Lyminge to Tonbridge. This she declined to do.

Mr. Kingsford admitted the facts, stating the point was the question of damages.

His Honour said the association wanted an order to show that the agreement had been broken, and their authority must not be defied. He entered judgment for the plaintiffs.

Nurses must learn that if they make a business contract they are in honour bound to carry it out.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

The infant mortality death-rate during the past summer has been terrible, especially in crowded cities, and public health workers have been doing all in their power to minimise it. The Local Government Boards of England and Ireland have issued circulars regarding the prevalence of epidemic diarrhoea amongst children, to sanitary authorities, and it would be well for nurses to study them, and help to enforce the suggestions they contain. The circulars state:—

"The Board are aware that in a large number of sanitary districts special efforts are made each summer to remove the nuisances and other conditions which favour excessive mortality amongst children. They suggest the following lines along which it is most important that action should be taken, but they do not wish it to be understood that this advice covers the entire ground, or that it does not need to be supplemented by action directed towards the special needs of individual districts.

"Firstly, it is important that exact advice should be given as to the feeding and management of children, and more generally as to preventing the exposure of their food to contamination from decomposing organic matter. The distribution of clearly-worded leaflets is useful in this connection, but even more important are personal visits and the offer of practical advice to the mothers of babies born within the last twelve months. Exact and simple instructions are most likely to be followed if given during a period of special danger. In districts and towns in which the Notification of Births Act has been adopted, the records obtained under that Act will give valuable information in selecting the homes to which visits are now most urgently required.

"Secondly, the full value of the personal instructions indicated above cannot be realized unless vigorous efforts are made to prevent the accumulation in, or in the vicinity of, the house of decomposing animal and vegetable matter. It is not necessary to do more than mention the importance of efficient scavenging, of frequent and, if practicable, daily removal of house and stable refuse, of domestic cleanliness, and of keeping all food properly protected. The Council may consider it advisable during the next few weeks to divert the sanitary inspectors from less urgent work, and to instruct them to make rapid visits with a view to securing efficient sanitation, especially in and about the houses of the working classes.

"Thirdly, it is important that the Council should promptly ascertain in which parts of their district, diarrhoea is especially prevalent, and should devote close attention to street and court scavenging, and to the removal of stable and domestic refuse in these areas. Without waiting for the weekly death returns, efforts should be made to obtain information of cases of diarrhoea from

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