

Memorandum was handed in by the Chairman notifying that the paper had been submitted to the eight Asylums in question, and giving the replies received as to these statements. The accuracy of several was denied.

In regard to Bodmin, where Mr. Bankart put the hours on duty of men at 90½, and of women at 91½ per week, and stated that they were frequently in the institution for 45 hours on end, the official reply was that the return seemed correct.

In connection with Fulbourn Asylum (Cambridge), Mr. Bankart stated that the porter's hours are sometimes 102, eating meals on duty. The Medical Superintendent says that the average of hours weekly for the porter is 93, and it never exceeds 101.

With regard to the Bootham Park Private Asylum, concerning which Mr. Bankart stated that nurses have had to work for 36 hours at a stretch (deducting meals), and one had to do 38, and was reprimanded for sitting down when tired; the Medical Superintendent's comment is: "A nurse taking one night only for night work has the option of going to bed in the morning on coming off night duty, or of going off duty at 2 p.m. of that day and receiving an additional half-day at a later date. The nurse to which the entry refers chose the latter alternative, and was found asleep about 11 a.m. and was roused by the Matron. Since that incident the nurses have not been allowed any option, but are compelled to go to bed on coming off duty."

Taking the whole of Mr. Bankart's evidence, most people will agree that he has made out a strong case for reform.

*(To be continued.)*

#### THE SCHOOL NURSES' LEAGUE.

A concert, followed by a dance, will be given by the members of the School Nurses' League Benevolent Fund at St. Bride's Institute, Bride Lane, Ludgate Circus, E.C., on Monday, November 27th, at 7.30 p.m. The price of tickets is 2s. each, including light refreshments. The League has a knack of arranging very pleasant evenings, and also of making a profit, and, we hope, will have a substantial one in the present instance.

#### CONFERENCE OF NURSES IN INDIA.

The combined conference of the Superintendents and Trained Nurses' Associations of India is to be held at Calcutta on Nov. 28th, 29th, and 30th. The programme is interesting. Papers will deal with Male Nurses. That each province or language area should have a Central Examination Board for Nurses. A Register of Nurses, Books for Nurses, and a Memorial to Miss Thorpe. Prizes for articles are offered by Miss Grace Tindall to Eurasian and to Indian nurses, and one by Miss Bonsor on "Practical Sympathy" as applied to nursing.

## NURSES' SOCIAL UNION.

### MORAL HYGIENE AND EUGENICS.

A Meeting for Nurses and Schoolmistresses was held, in connection with the Nurses' Social Union, in the Albermarle Street Chapel School-room, at Taunton, on Saturday, November 11th, the organisers being Mrs. Stanley, Miss N. Fry, and Miss Eden. There was a large attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what possible steps could be taken, especially by District Nurses and School Teachers, to improve the hygiene and moral training of the children of all classes, particularly of those children whose surroundings may be defective, or who are compelled to leave home at a tender age, either to enter a boarding school or to earn a livelihood.

The meeting was addressed by Dr. Marion Linton, of Bristol, the chair being taken by Miss Pye (late of the Supt. Staff of Ranyard Nurses), who, in her introductory remarks, explained the purpose of the gathering, referred to the evolution of public opinion, which had rendered such a discussion possible, and expressed her conviction that not only hygienic instruction, but careful moral teaching regarding the passing of the torch of life from one generation to another was a duty owing to our children, to whom ignorance and deception might cause irreparable injury.

Very beautifully Miss Pye expressed the thought that the child should understand that these great functions of life were "secret because they were sacred, not because they were shameful"; while the trainer must remember that he only was safe who possessed "self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control."

Dr. Marion Linton's earnest address was of great practical utility, explaining how mothers of her acquaintance had dealt with the question of imparting knowledge to their children gradually from a very tender age, and had taught them, through the care of domestic animals, some of the vital truths of life, the sacredness of motherhood and the cherishing thereof.

After dealing with the dangers of ignorance and of improperly acquired knowledge, Dr. Marion Linton suggested the possible value of scientific teaching, particularly of botany, in schools as a foundation upon which, by deduction, the child might later build up a correct view of the mystery of the propagation of life.

Finally, the lecturer noticed the work possible to District Nurses in the suitable instruc-

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