

tion of mothers, and enquired as to what information might and might not be imparted by teachers in class or in dealing with the individual child.

Nurse Symonds (Health Lecturer to the Nurses' Social Union) opened the discussion, and instanced lectures which she had delivered to the members of a Mothers' Union in connection with the subject of the proper instruction of girls in moral and hygienic truths and in the risks which life held for them. This discussion was joined in by several, and although the time at disposal was limited, much valuable knowledge was gained and the following decisions were arrived at:

1. That suitable instruction regarding the most important facts of life should be given to children as early as they can appreciate such instruction, while no deceptive or untrue answers must be given to questions they may ask.

2. That the instruction can be best imparted by parents, but where this is impossible the aid of Nurse or Teacher should be invoked.

3. That such instruction should be given individually, and, unless possibly in the case of lads and girls of 16 or 18 years of age, already possessing elementary knowledge, would not be at all suitable as class instruction.

4. That a wide field for work lies open to District Nurses in the instruction of mothers.

5. That a real desire for further helpful meetings of this kind was felt by Nurses and Schoolmistresses.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to Dr. Marion Linton, the chairwoman (Miss Pye), Miss Eden, Mrs. Stanley, Miss Harris, Miss Davey, Miss Stansell, and all who had aided in bringing the gathering to a successful issue.

Those who attended the meeting were most thoughtfully provided with tea by Mrs. Stanley, and many helpful conversations took place during this later informal gathering.

PROPOSITIONS SUGGESTED.

1. That instruction in Moral Hygiene and Eugenics should be compulsory in every Training College for Teachers, whether for Elementary or Secondary Schools.

2. That legislation is needed authorising Head Teachers to deal with the subject of instruction in moral hygiene in cases where this instruction seems to be really necessary, and protecting them from stigma and professional injury because of the imparting of such instruction when requisite to safeguard individual children or to protect the school as a body from probable contamination.

3. That no Mixed School should be placed under a master unless there be also on the Staff a fully qualified and responsible Assistant Mistress, whose

duty shall be to deal with the girls in all matters concerning morality and health. (For this purpose the appointment of a "woman over 18 years of age" should not suffice.)

4. Legislation is necessary for the proper control of all epileptics and others physically or mentally unfit to propagate the race, that these may be segregated or in other ways prevented from race production and from endangering the morality of other persons.

5. The continuance and increase of vigorous efforts to stamp out the drink curse—the cause of much incest and other moral ill.

6. The encouragement of public opinion to affix an equal stigma to men and women in the case of a lapse from morality.

7. More adequate legislation for the protection of children, and of girls *up to the age of 21*.

8. To encourage the wearing by girls of some form of gymnastic costume in all schools. (This would afford more protection to girls of the poorer classes, and these latter would more readily adopt it if it were worn by richer children, the more so as many poor children are largely clad in the partially worn garments of their wealthier neighbours.) Gymnastic dress would be warmer and more hygienic than the garments usually worn.

9. The establishment of a Fund to aid specially qualified Nurses to impart instruction to Mothers through the medium of Mothers' Unions or kindred bodies, such bodies to subscribe according to their means.

10. The improvement of cottage dwellings, more particularly with respect to—

(a) The water-closets (which are often exposed, and even common to several houses).

(b) Bedroom accommodation (often not sufficient to divide the sexes).

(c) Provision for bathing. (Even a public bath-house in each town and village *might* aid this, but it is doubtful.)

11. The extension of open-air teaching in schools or, where this is impracticable, some arrangement by which windows could be removed (*e.g.*, made to slide into wall) during suitable weather, leaving the schoolrooms like open sheds. (Vigorous health tends to purity, vitiated air having an opposite effect on the system. Open-air life, combined with moral purity, would probably do much to stamp out consumption and other diseases.)

12. Prohibition of the sale of spirits to any person under the age of 21. (I am informed by the son of a publican that it is common in this district for lads to celebrate their 16th birthday by an order for a glass of brandy at a public-house bar, the usual result being drunkenness, if nothing worse.)

E. L. C. E.

NURSES' MEMORIAL TO KING EDWARD VII.

Owing to pressure on our space we are compelled to hold over until next week the publication of the reports of the Nurses' Memorial to King Edward VII, donations to which, in all, amount to over £12,000.

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