

Moreover, the establishment of a central examination of Poor Law nurses as a class apart would only tend to dissociate them from the profession as a whole. Any scheme for the examination of nurses to be useful should co-ordinate nurses, and it would be a mistake to differentiate between those trained in general hospitals and Poor Law infirmaries having adequate training facilities.

The work of the Nursing Inspectors under the Local Government Board is proving more valuable every day, and we have before pointed out that Mr. John Burns has never done a more useful bit of work as President of the Board than when he appointed them.

What is really needed in the Poor Law Nursing Service is a large increase in the number of nurses employed before perfection can be approximately arrived at.

We find from enquiry that a large number of Poor Law nurses are overworked, which does not reflect credit upon the Service and detracts from its popularity.

#### COLONIAL NURSING.

The Colonial Nursing Association, through which the Colonial Office obtains nurses for service in hospitals and private houses in Crown Colonies, continues to do an increasing and useful work in bringing the services of skilled nurses and midwives within reach of their countrymen and women in those Colonies, thereby saving many valuable lives.

#### FEVER NURSING.

The Fever Nurses' Association has now established an examination for those nurses who have gone through a prescribed curriculum, and gives a certificate to those who satisfactorily pass it. There is now undoubtedly a growing feeling on the part of the authorities of general and infectious hospitals that some system of affiliation between these two classes of institutions for training purposes is desirable, and it is to be hoped that in the future the good example of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in providing for a certain amount of reciprocal training between the pupils trained in the Nursing School of that institution and nurses in the infectious hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, may be generally followed.

#### MENTAL NURSING.

During the year the Select Committee of the House of Commons has issued its Report on the Asylums Officers (Employment, Pensions and Superannuation) Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Viscount Wolmer, and, having made certain amendments to the Bill,

stated their opinion that it should be proceeded with in order that it may pass into law.

The Committee were of opinion that "the hours of Asylum Attendants are excessive, and ought to be diminished. Eighty hours and more of such work in a week cannot be defended; and such length of service is not, in fact, defended even by those who dislike the idea of Parliamentary interference."

In regard to the suggestion that restriction of hours might interfere with the "nursing spirit" in asylums, the Committee stated "it is hard to believe that excessive hours are required to maintain that nursing spirit which is much to be encouraged in asylum service, or that attendants would be less likely than other classes to make proper use of reasonable leisure."

No opportunity for a second reading of the Bill presented itself during the past session, but there is no doubt that legislation is needed on the lines indicated in it.

#### PRIVATE NURSING.

Private Nursing is one of the most responsible branches of work which a nurse can undertake, making large demands upon her knowledge, skill, and resourcefulness, as she is left without the support available in hospitals through a resident medical staff, and must act in emergencies on her own initiative. The principle of maintaining co-operative societies of private nurses, whereby they receive the maximum amount of the fees they have earned by their skill and hard work, is greatly to be encouraged, and it is regrettable that the powers conferred by Parliament on the London County Council in connection with the licensing of Employment Agencies should have a directly opposite effect. The National Insurance Act also, framed primarily in the interests of male day workers, will press hardly upon private nurses, and should convince them of the necessity of working to secure the Parliamentary Franchise, and of the dangers of legislating for sections of women workers, who have no means of voicing their special needs, without consulting them—a danger, indeed, to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has drawn attention.

Private nursing work for men trained in Naval and Military Hospitals is secured through the Army and Navy Male Nurses' Co-operation, 11A, Welbeck Street, W. One of the best-known nurses' co-operations for men is the Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation, 10, Thayer Street, W.

#### DISTRICT NURSING.

In no branch of nursing are the diversities of standards more acutely felt than in district

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