

Mary Burr, to represent the League at the Congress of the International Council of Nurses at Cologne, and also to send the League banner. A call upon the Benevolent Fund was responded to by a grant of £2 2s. A social gathering, and tea hospitably provided by the Sister-Superior, brought a very pleasant afternoon to a close.

The Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association will be held on May 22nd at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, at 3.30 p.m. Sir William Collins, the retiring President, will be in the chair. In view of impending legislation it is considered important that the President should have a seat in the House of Commons, and Sir John Jardine, M.P., K.C.I.E., has consented to be nominated for the position. There is a very strong feeling amongst asylum attendants that, whatever form legislation takes, it is all-important that the hours of work should be considerably shortened, and that 60 hours a week is long enough to be on duty, if good health and equable temper are to be maintained. There is no doubt that from 70 to 80 hours a week is far too long for the trying nature of the work.

It is to be regretted that the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association, at a meeting held at Glasgow, passed a resolution expressing its determination to oppose Clause I of Lord Wolmer's Bill referring to the statutory limitation of hours on duty for nurses and attendants.

The *Daily Mirror* has a wonderful faculty for springing surprises upon us, but can its latest discovery that male nurses are best be true? We poor women have received some rude shocks of late: so rude, indeed, that several persons have recently written to the Press to propose that we should as a sex be exterminated and a better and happier world go on without us. But just one delusion we have clung to tenaciously, and that is that women are better equipped by nature for caring for sick people and helpless babes than men. Apparently even this is a fond delusion.

A leading doctor (always these leaders who make these brilliant discoveries about women!) has made the following statement to the *Mirror* :—

"Everybody thinks that a woman is a better nurse than a man simply because she is a woman," he said. "But it is my experience that a man is, on the whole, a more satisfactory sick-room attendant.

"I know of many cases where university men have nursed their fellows through influenza and other maladies with great success.

"Some women of my acquaintance prefer their husbands to nurse them through an illness in preference to a trained woman nurse.

"Perhaps in little things, such as the arrangement of pillows or anticipating the wants of the patient, the woman has more intuition than a man."

But when we come to the babies there are still greater surprises. This "leading" light states :—

"If they only had the patience men make splendid nurses for sick babies. They are better in some respects than the child's own mother." (Why have a mother?—ED., *B.J.N.*)

"I have constantly seen instances where a mother or some other woman has failed to soothe a wailing baby, and on being placed in a man's arms the infant has immediately quietened and gone to sleep.

"In hospital out-patients' departments one can witness this phenomenon every day—how yelling infants are immediately soothed when they are placed in the doctor's arms.

"The reason is, so far as I can see, that the child feels more sense of security and restfulness when held firmly in the hands of a man.

"Man's peculiar faculty for soothing babies may explain why he is, on the whole, so successful a nurse for adults."

Now tired mothers and nurses, the cat is out of the bag. You now know what to do with "yelling infants." Don't waste time trying to soothe them. No more weary watching and sleepless nights. Don't deny man the exercise of his "peculiar faculty," but when you hear him gently snoring in his early and delightful beauty sleep, just wake him up, place the "wailing" infant "firmly in his arms," and take your rest. As for out-patient physicians and surgeons, dressers and clinical clerks, what a vista of usefulness opens out before them, and what a saving of expense. No more sisters and nurses needed for out-patients. No more yelling, wailing, and unrest! Man with his "peculiar faculty" will hush all that or know the reason why not. Halcyon days indeed! And yet— *Oh! les pauvres petits enfants.*

A special meeting of the Council of King Edward's Coronation Fund for Nurses was held at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, last week. Several applications for membership were accepted. Three nurse members were granted £5 each. Final arrangements were made regarding the annual general meeting to be held

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