

Help might be given in many ways. Temporary assistance with money or milk, medical aid, admission to hospital or brine baths, the lending of cots, which if given would be pawned, to children who were otherwise forced to share a bed with some invalid adult. A daily war must be waged against dirt, ignorance, neglect and insanitary habits, unsuitable nourishment and the use of alcohol, the causes of so much infant mortality. Mothers must be encouraged to suckle their own infants and be given some idea of pedagogics. But care must be taken not to let zeal outrun discretion. For example, if a child was loved and cared for, a little dirt must be overlooked, for surely nothing could make up for the lack of love in a child's life. The fact that a female inspector must be well acquainted with the care and the feeding of children, hygiene, &c., pointed to the need for a nurse who had gained experience by working in different departments of nursing and proved herself efficient in posts of trust.

Sister Oesterlen cordially agreed with Sister Agnes Karll that three years training was indispensable for thorough grounding in nursing, and went on to say that it was not medical and social knowledge alone which the woman inspector needed; the wisdom and tact gained by experience in dealing with cases of mental disorder proved of untold value when face to face with drunkenness or resistance to authority, whilst the insight into human nature thus gained would guide a nurse, in judging a child's faults or vices, to trace hereditary taint, or the undermining influence of alcohol. Tact and sympathy were two necessary qualifications to draw out the good in the working classes, and the inspector who would gain influence must show respect for the worth in those with whom she had to deal. Many a well-meaning worker split upon the rock of condescension, instead of tactfully imparting her superior knowledge.

(To be continued.)

### FIRST STEPS TO NURSING.

Miss Cave, the Matron of the Westminster Hospital, has a much needed handbook in the press, entitled "First Steps to Nursing." It deals with the preparation of the candidate, habits to be acquired, new duties, and incidentally it treats of the necessary clothing to be provided and the various appointments which are open to certificated nurses. It will be published by Messrs. Partridge & Co., Ltd., at 1s. net, and will, we feel sure, command a wide sale.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, has provisionally fixed Friday, November 15th, as the date on which she will open the new ward block at the Miller General Hospital, Greenwich. Her Royal Highness will receive purses containing not less than five guineas.

### A PILGRIMAGE TO EAST WELLOW.

It was my privilege to accompany Miss Take Hagiwara, Hon. Vice-President for Japan of the International Council of Nurses; Mrs. Watatani, Matron and Delegate of the Mitsui Hospital, Tokio; and Miss Yamamoto, Delegate from the Red Cross Society of Japan, on a pilgrimage to East Wellow last Saturday, to lay a wreath on the grave of Miss Florence Nightingale. Mr. K. Hiraiwa accompanied the party, and interpreted Miss Hagiwara's questions and speeches in the kindest way possible.

I learnt many interesting things on the journey down to Romsey; amongst them that the employment of Red Cross Nurses on active service during the war with China was due to the efforts of Baron T. Ostuguro, Director-General of the Medical Service of the Japanese Army, who insisted, in spite of opposition, that the nurses should be so utilized. It must be satisfactory to him that, when the opportunity was granted to them, the Red Cross nurses more than justified his trust in them, and their work during the war won world-wide admiration.

It will also gratify British nurses to know that when Miss Nightingale died her memory was honoured in far-away Japan at the same time that memorial services were held in this country, and that in the Red Cross Hospital at Tokio Miss Hagiwara spoke the tribute in the presence of Princesses of the Blood Royal, Peeresses, and other members of the aristocracy, and over 300 Red Cross Nurses.

About the same time Baron Ostuguro instituted a Nightingale medal as a reward of merit for Red Cross Nurses, which is decided by the lay head of the hospital, the principal medical officer, and the matron. No one may hold it until, in addition to gaining a three-years' certificate of training, she has been a sister for at least two years. It is not awarded each year, or at stated intervals, but for specially meritorious service. The medal bears the representation of a nightingale, of which bird the Japanese are extremely fond.

Arrived at Romsey, the Delegates first visited the fine old Abbey, dating back for a thousand years, and after lunching at the White Horse Hotel, drove out to Wellow across the lovely river Test, through Embley Park, and close under the windows of Embley House, and on between deep hedgerows scented with honeysuckle, now in full flower, and twined with wild convolvulus, until they came to East Wellow. Passing through the little turnstile at the side of the lychgate, they at once went to the Night-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)