

do much to influence treatment where it is needed. School doctors, health workers, school teachers, can help. Many of the seeds of deafness are laid before school age, and, therefore, it is highly important that the mothers should be influenced. Lectures should be organised on the subject to health visitors and health workers of all kinds, so that they may acquire the requisite knowledge to enable them directly to influence the mothers with whom they come in contact. Similar lectures, in which the causation of deafness is described in simple language and advice given as to the proper care of the ear, nose and throat, should be given to elementary school teachers. Lastly, "talks to mothers" upon the same subject should be organised by local health societies. These talks to mothers have already given excellent results in other departments of preventive medicine, as the valuable report of the St. Marylebone Health Society has demonstrated. Mothers are, in the majority of cases, only too grateful for the advice which they receive, and only too pleased to use their best endeavours to put into practice suggestions which they know to be offered for the good of their children. This year I was privileged to give an address to mothers, under the auspices of the St. Marylebone Health Society, and I was much impressed by the appreciative and earnest manner in which my words were received. In matters concerning the health of the child our profession can give valuable advice, but it is upon the mothers that we have to depend to make that advice bear good fruit. Without the co-operation of the mother we are helpless, but that co-operation is easily secured if we go the right way to obtain it.

### OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

Four Five Shilling Prizes will be awarded in December for the best toys made at the cost of not more than sixpence. The toys must be sent to the Editorial Office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., by December 14th, with the coupon which will appear in the issue of December 7th. All the toys will be distributed to poor children under five years of age, so they should be made to meet tastes of tinies.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

The papers received in connection with our prize competition, although some are interesting from the general standpoint, do not directly answer the question. The prize will, therefore, not be awarded this week.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Describe the modern management of scarlet fever.

## NURSING IN THE NEAR EAST.

The probability of war in the Near East is causing much interest in nursing circles as to the provision to be made for the sick and wounded. It is natural that Queen Alexandra, whose favourite brother is King of the Hellenes, should take a deep interest in the question, and we understand that Her Majesty, through the British Red Cross Society, of which she is President, has offered assistance in the event of war. The Russian Red Cross Society is also equipping a Service to proceed to Montenegro and the other Balkan States, consisting of 250 beds, and there is no doubt that other countries will offer similar service.

Nor must it be forgotten that the Greek ladies are extremely patriotic, and that in the Græco-Turkish war in 1897 the Queen took the greatest interest in the condition and comfort of the wounded, and personally visited the hospitals; and the Crown Princess actively concerned herself in the provision of doctors and thoroughly trained nurses, and in the organization of military and civil hospitals.

At that time our national Red Cross Society was somewhat dormant, and the organization of the aid of British nurses was carried out by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and the *Daily Chronicle*; the Red Cross Society's aid was not forthcoming till the conclusion of the war, when it had to be distributed to the refugees. To the *Daily Chronicle* belongs the credit of raising the funds by means of which thoroughly trained nurses were sent out to the seat of war, and, with the invaluable assistance of many Greek ladies, well-equipped hospital accommodation was speedily organized under Mrs. Fenwick's superintendence in four different centres.

We learn from the British Red Cross Society that the members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments will have the "first chance" of being sent out with the doctors who will be detailed for active service, and it was expressly stated, as we are of course aware, that "they are not thoroughly trained nurses." The women members are not to be sent in the first instance. We understand that offers of service will be considered from trained nurses. A statement is to be issued by the Red Cross Society as we go to press. Voluntary Aid Detachments may, no doubt, have their uses, but no one can take the place of the fully trained nurse in the care of the sick and wounded in war. Here in England she is ready and waiting. We hope her services will be commanded by the medical faculty from the first.

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