

a rather wide door open for the abuse of infirmaries." The natural evolution of Poor Law Infirmaries is that they should become Municipal Hospitals.

The West Riding Nursing Association, together with the Leeds Babies' Welcome, are arranging a Baby Land and Health Exhibition in aid of the two institutions, to be held at the Leeds Town Hall on November 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th. The Nursing Association is responsible for the following sections:— (1) Infant Care; (2) Model Clothing Exhibits; (3) Food and Cookery; (4) Nursing Inventions and Contrivances; (5) General Hygiene; (6) Historical Exhibits; (7) Tuberculosis Exhibits; (8) Work done by the blind, cripples, invalids, &c. The Association will also have a literature stall. There will also be a market for linen, stationery, plants, bulbs, china, fancy work, household goods, provisions, clothing, toys, &c. The section organized by the Committee of the Leeds Babies' Welcome will be "Concerning Babies and their Mothers," and will include model rooms, cradles, perambulators, &c. The ordinary weekly meeting of the Welcome will be held on the premises, and the public will be admitted, for a charge of 6d., to watch the proceedings. Entertainments, competitions, and lectures complete a very full programme. The Hon. Secretaries are Miss V. Thurstan, Superintendent of the Association, and Miss Curtis, Superintendent of the Leeds Babies' Welcome, and the former writes: "I must most gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the very fine Nursing Exhibition at Cologne for some of our ideas."

A branch of the Nurses' Social Union has been started in Portsmouth, where the need for something of the kind has been felt for some time. It is being taken up very keenly by members of the profession. Several matrons of the various institutions have expressed great interest, and two of these have already joined it, while school nursing and health visiting are well represented on the provisional committee. An inaugural meeting will be held shortly, at which a programme for meetings during the winter will be discussed. Applications for membership and all particulars should be made to the Branch Secretary, Miss Shackelford, Matron, Children's Convalescent Home, Auckland Road, Southsea.

An investigation into the working conditions of the nursing profession in Germany, the result of which was laid before the National

Council of German Women, reveals, says the *Standard*, an almost incredible absence of system and organisation, which seems quite foreign to the orderly German nature. City councils, women's unions, and the general public seem to have entirely ignored the bad conditions prevailing among this valuable body of workers, while the women themselves have not yet learned the value of co-operation as a means of redress, for out of 30,000 or so qualified nurses but few belong to any union. In public hospitals working days of 13 and 14 hours are the general rule, with no proper provision for night and day shifts. Private institutions are much worse, in some instances 27 to 48 hours being worked straight off without a break, while both food and salaries are of a meagre description. The organisation of nurses into a national union is the solution offered to this problem, with a fighting committee who would lay before the proper authorities the nurses' demands for a ten-hour day, a general overhauling of hospitals, institutions, and private nursing homes, and a three years' training instead of one.

The meeting of the National Council was held in Gotha from October 2nd-5th. Sister Agnes Karll, valiant as ever, was there to voice the views of the German Nurses' Association, which, we believe, conducted the investigation above referred to, and which is a forceful body of some thousands of nurses. It is the fourth Congress she has attended in 12 months.

The National Association of Trained Nurses of India holds its annual Conference in Bangalore on November 4th, 5th, and 6th, when many questions of special interest to nurses in India will be discussed. Prizes are offered for the best paper on Hospital Etiquette, and for the best padded splint.

Miss Charlotte Mill, Matron of St. George's Hospital, Bombay, has just left England for India after six months' leave. When in London she expressed her great satisfaction that the National Association of Nurses of India had entered into international relations with the nurses of the world. She thinks it will give great encouragement to those striving for better nursing throughout India, and will tend to raise the status of the Indian training schools, and the fact that there is in London an international centre at 431, Oxford Street, London, where nurses coming from India can call and receive advice and help will knit closer the relations of nurses trained in India and at home.

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