

and there was practically unanimity that this was the right thing. There must always be danger in propagation by degenerate stock, particularly in the case of insanity, which was most persistent. Dr. Hyslop, formerly Superintendent at Bethlem, estimated that if we went on at the present rate, in fifty years' time half the population would be insane.

Again, thousands of feeble-minded persons regarded Poor Law Infirmaries as their private maternity hospitals, and it was unfortunately proved by comparative study that degenerates were one-third more fertile than the average person.

In regard to sterility, contagious diseases were the cause of nearly half the cases. In the view of the eugenist the marriage of definitely diseased persons was a greater sin than irregular unions of healthy people.

Dr. Mott calculated that if a person were insane at sixty his child would be insane at forty, and his grandchild at twenty. By that means nature tended to eliminate insanity in the fourth generation.

So far all were agreed. In regard to constructive or positive Eugenics, there was considerable divergence of opinion. Sir Francis Galton thought them more important than negative Eugenics. It was important that degenerates should not be born, but it was equally important that the right people should be born. It was a fact that in the better classes of society the birth-rate was half that of the lowest class. It was not good to breed mainly from the lowest of the race, but under present conditions the middle classes who had large families were heavily handicapped. After all it was a woman's question, and it was a woman's right to decide how many children she should have.

The lecturer was of opinion that the spread of a knowledge of Eugenics would influence the standard of physical fitness. If a girl had high ideals of physical and moral strength she could not fall in love with a puny degenerate, and if she was trained in Eugenic ideals she would not fall in love with those who fell short of them. Undoubtedly marriage should go with love, and if a doctor could write a prescription for a love marriage he believed it would cure half the illnesses in the world.

Speaking of the environment of motherhood, Dr. Murray Leslie expressed the opinion that the provision of dowries for healthy young women, so enabling them to marry, would be of greater value than the endowment of public libraries. He emphasised the need of instruction of the young in questions of sex, and considered that every nurse should have an elementary knowledge of Eugenics, for they were frequently taken into the confidence of patients and the public and might exercise a beneficial influence.

In conclusion the lecturer stated that he hoped shortly to write a pamphlet on Eugenics on the invitation of the Nurses' Social Union.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (SCOTLAND).

EXAMINATION OF NURSES.

On November 19th and subsequent days the Local Government Board for Scotland held an examination for the certification of trained sick nurses and of trained fever nurses. The examination was held at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen. The examiners were Professor Matthew Hay, Aberdeen; Dr. D. J. Mackintosh, Western Infirmary, Glasgow; Dr. C. B. Ker, City Hospital, Edinburgh; and Dr. Johnston, Eastern District Hospital, Glasgow, who were assisted in the practical part of the examination by Miss Gregory Smith, matron of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and by Miss Melrose, matron of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

The subjects of examination were Elementary Anatomy and Physiology, Hygiene and Dietetics, Medical and Surgical Nursing, Midwifery, and Infectious Diseases. In all, 200 candidates presented themselves for examination. Of these, 109 were examined in Anatomy and Physiology, 113 in Hygiene and Dietetics, 74 in Medical and Surgical Nursing, 25 in Midwifery, and 46 in Infectious Diseases.

In Anatomy and Physiology 16 nurses obtained distinction, 79 obtained a simple pass, and 14 failed.

In Hygiene and Dietetics, 7 nurses obtained distinction, 90 obtained a simple pass, and 16 failed.

In Medical and Surgical Nursing, 1 nurse obtained distinction, 69 obtained a simple pass, and 4 failed.

In Midwifery, 1 nurse obtained distinction, 19 obtained a simple pass, and 5 failed.

In Infectious Diseases, 3 nurses obtained distinction, 42 obtained a simple pass, and 1 failed.

Twenty-three nurses are now entitled to the certificate in general training granted by the Local Government Board, and 45 are entitled to the certificate in fever training granted by the Board.

CERTIFICATE IN GENERAL TRAINING.—Jessie G. Asher, Jessie MacLean, Cissy Angus, Mary S. Angus, Mary Barrie, Kyle J. Clarke, Florence J. A. Dinsmore, Gertrude S. Goldie, Mary M. Harper, Cecilia F. Hassett, Grace S. Kerr, Elizabeth L. Millikin, Agnes C. Mitchell, Marjory C. Murray, Mary J. Mackenzie, Grace M'Queen, Jane Paterson, Elizabeth H. Paxton, Agnes Slater, Isabella D. Smith, Williamina Thaw, Katharine M. Todd, Margaret H. F. Young.

CERTIFICATE ON FEVER TRAINING.—Wilhelmina H. Allan, Beatrice M. Bull, Sarah C. Cowan, Isabella Dunlop, Agnes Flynn, Mary W. Gillon, Helen Grant, Catherine G. Hall, Margaret Y. Henderson, Katharine B. Low, Ellen M. Mills, Jessie C. Macfee, Helen Macgregor, Katharine M. MacGregor, Ida G. Mackenzie, Margaret

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)