

A letter was read from Mr. Buncombe, Assistant Medical Officer, stating that he would be willing to give a series of lectures to the Nurses on aid to the sick if the Board would grant an allowance of £10 for the necessary books.

Mr. Monson said he should oppose this spending of the ratepayers' money upon every new proposition, and he should move that the grant be not allowed.

Mr. Smith seconded the resolution.

Mr. Lille considered it was a very excellent proposition, and one likely to be very useful.

Mr. Abbott thought they ought to grant the money.

Mr. Willmott said he should vote for the money being granted. Considering how useful these lectures had been to Nurses in other institutions he hoped the money would be allowed. The only question with him was whether they ought not to allow more.

The proposal to grant the money was carried by a large majority.

I am heartily glad that the "ratepayers'" money *has* to be expended upon an excellent object of this kind.

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THERE still appears to be a considerable amount of old-fashioned narrow-mindedness yet in existence, and even in such an enlightened place as Winchester there happens to be plenty of it. It is noted that the inmates of the workhouse there have been supplied by some kind-hearted individual with the publications of the Salvation Army. I am not an admirer of Salvation Army literature; I am still less an admirer of the Salvation Army itself; but, at the same time, I consider it a piece of narrow-minded impertinence on the part of the chaplain of the workhouse who prohibited such literature being sent, and I am very glad to learn that his chaplainship was written to and informed "that he had no responsibility in the matter."

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THE Rugby District Nursing Association has had a most successful year. During that time the Nurse had attended 109 cases, and paid 3,247 visits, whilst a balance in hand of no less than £22 8s. 11d. was recorded. It was proposed and unanimously decided that the association should be affiliated to the Queen's Institute. The Rev. D. Percival was elected president, and the Hon. Mrs. Tower, Lady Superintendent.

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THE Leeds District Nursing Society is making an appeal through the local press for additional subscriptions, donations, gifts in kind, &c. The appeal is signed by Emily Garlick and Clara Talbot. S. G.

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THE difference between the good and bad citizen begins with different conceptions of the State. To the latter it is an association for the furtherance of private ends; to the former, an organism in which the function of the individual is to work for the welfare of the whole.

## WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

### ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.

ARE they not real? has often been asked of the lovely artificial blossoms the artists' nimble fingers frame to adorn the shrine of beauty and wealth; for so perfect is the copy of the natural flower that, especially now that scent is used to mislead the sense of smell as well as the sense of sight, it is almost impossible at first to detect the true from the false, the artificial from the natural flowers. But this refers only to the art of artificial flower making when brought to the highest pitch of perfection; and nearly all these perfect and beautiful imitations of nature are made in France and imported. They are very expensive, and their makers are, I believe, highly paid for their choice productions. But the poor love finery as well as the rich, and every workman's wife and daughter will have floral decorations if she possibly can, and loves to make a flower garden of her Sunday hat or bonnet. Demand produces supply, according to the laws of political economy and of common sense; and, therefore, the milliners' windows are adorned with "marvellous bargains" in artificial flowers, some even from twopence three-farthings a bunch. Of course these imitations of the floral wealth of summer are coarse and crude compared to the delicate beauties sent over to us by the French modistes; but then those who cannot afford velvet wear velveteen, those who cannot afford satin use sateen, and those whose cannot afford real seal-skin are content with seal-skin plush. Often have I heard people say carelessly, as they contemplated these common and cheap artificial flowers, "How can it be done at the price?" I find on enquiry that it cannot be done save at starvation price. Here is a quotation from the words of one of these artificial flower makers, herself employed in a good firm:—"The wages are so bad sometimes they (the piece workers) work from nine in the morning till eight at night to earn a shilling; that is not moving out of their seats for hardly a minute. The day workers have one hour for dinner and half an hour for tea; they have to be at the factory at nine and stay till eight. They gain about ten to fourteen or fifteen shillings a week, more if the season is busy, but often in the dull part of the year they are turned off or only employed half a day. The apprentices generally give about three months time. The work is not to be recommended; it is very dirty, and the smell of the dye, &c., is very bad at times and injures the health. "Sometimes," so says the informant quoted above, "our arms are up to our elbows with scarlet colour,

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