

find someone to do all the household work that the wife had been in the habit of doing, but, nevertheless, the Home must take a positive stand in the matter.

Captain Acland asked whether in the case of serious illness the village itself could not supply an assistant or a mother's help. He also said it was possible to start a new class of nurse and have nurses trained from the cottage class, who would go to cottage cases, but that would alter their principles that the poor people should have the highest and best class of nursing.

Herein lies the remedy. If cottage helps only are required when the poor are really ill, nothing more need be done, but with Captain Acland we claim it is skilled nursing they need, and in every village it is quite easy to get domestic help if it is paid for. The Sick Room Helps Society is organised on these lines, and works admirably.

Mr. Taylor's lecture to the Irish Nurses' Association, "Signs and Symptoms," which was unavoidably postponed from February 26th, was given on March 6th in the lecture room, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. It is needless to say that it was a most highly interesting and instructive one, and was most thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by the large number of nurses present.

"South Africa is reported to be very lukewarm with regard to Lady Gladstone's scheme for a South African Order of Nurses, and the response for funds has been far from generous," writes a nurse from Cape Colony. "The private nurses at work here fear competition, and the lowering of fees; doctors prefer things as they are, and the alternative suggestion of having the late King's memorial take the form of a sanatorium would have really been more popular. The Victorian Order in Canada, and the Minto scheme in India, were both adversely criticised at first, but are recognised as good for patients—if not for the financial reward of nurses as a whole. There is no doubt that nursing provided on a co-operative basis by lay committees decreases the economic independence of individual nurses—and as the Colonial nurse is more independent in character than those from England, she resents the organised control more even than the competition in fees. Bush nursing was opposed in Australia for these same reasons."

WELCOME HELP.

Miss Janet M. Stewart sends a subscription of £1 1s. to the funds of the Society for State Registration of Nurses, "in memory of my dear sister Isla."

Miss Musson, Birmingham, also generously sends £1 1s.

NURSES' SOCIAL UNION.

A meeting was held at Bristol, on February 27th, when Professor Walker-Hall, of the Medico-Pathological Department, Bristol University, gave an extremely able, interesting and amusing lecture upon the Serum Treatment of Disease. This being the preliminary lecture, Professor Walker-Hall dwelt upon the growth, development and adaptation of bacteria from the ice-age up to the advent of man upon the earth, and upon the methods by which bacteria are conveyed—dust, air, food, water, fleas and bugs, &c. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides showing some of the various micro-organisms which cause disease, and how these are combated by phagocytes. There were about sixty present. A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Miss Harvey, and seconded by Miss Fry, called a response from the Professor that it had been a pleasure to speak to an audience which was "so alive." After the lecture tea was provided at Fort's Restaurant, Clifton. The next of these lectures will be on March 20th.

A meeting was held on Monday, March 3rd, at the N.S.U. Club-Room, George's Café, Weston-super-Mare, when Miss Symonds, the new County Organiser, spoke upon the Moral Training of Girls. The lecturer, who was introduced by Miss Pethick, said that the subject should be of special interest to nurses, not only on account of their opportunities of helping, but also because of the influence they undoubtedly have upon young girls through their self-sacrificing work, and experience of life. In the course of a deeply-interesting and valuable lecture, Miss Symonds said that the coarseness of the eighteenth century had resulted in the prudishness of the nineteenth, and were both to be regretted. She appealed for utter fearlessness as well as for a wise reverence in treating all matters dealing with the mystery of life, and deplored the false modesty which allowed the young to obtain their knowledge of the facts of life from contaminated sources, and permitted them to go out into the world in complete ignorance of the dangers which surrounded them, and of the duties which it was the highest function of a woman to fulfil. Miss Symonds dwelt upon the necessity of training the child from the beginning in habits of self-respect; on the special care of girls at puberty with its unique opportunity for initiation into the mystery of life; and upon the need of instructing them further in the responsibility of choosing the right man to be the possible father of their children. The subject was afterwards thrown open to discussion, and Mrs. Portsmouth Fry proposed and Mrs. Wallace seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer.

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