

must possess general, or general and mid-wifery, qualifications, and be registered in South Africa.

The principal duties of the Superintendent General, whose position is one of great importance, are to exercise supervision and disciplinary control over all Nurses enrolled as King Edward Nurses, under the Rules and Regulations of the Order; to report from time to time to the Executive Committee; to keep full records of the work done by the Nurses; and to investigate all matters referred by Members of the Order.

THE NURSING OF THE INSURED SICK.

A GOVERNMENT NURSING SERVICE.

The fact that Trained Nurses were excluded from direct representation on the Advisory Committee, England, of the National Insurance Act, has of course not prevented the Nursing of the Insured Sick coming at once to the front, as one of the most important and difficult questions in connection with carrying out the provisions of the Act. Naturally the policy of this journal has been to claim the right of insured persons (if provided with nursing) to a trained and thoroughly efficient standard of nursing,—and of course we have been met, as always, with the untenable argument that the rural poor cannot expect the same standard as their urban neighbours, even if they are both compelled to pay the same price for it under the Insurance Act! The Sub-Committee on Nursing of the Association of Approved Societies has, after conferring with Nursing Associations and Societies, presented its Report to the Executive Committee, and it has been unanimously adopted. Its most important conclusion is included in the last paragraph, which states, "We are of opinion that it is the duty of the Government to provide an adequate Nursing Service, and if necessary, to make such a Treasury Grant as may be necessary to put the scheme on a sound financial basis."

This is a suggestion that a Nursing Benefit should be provided under the Act, and Trained Nurses supplied who are efficiently trained, and adequately remunerated. Let us hope the Government will amend the Insurance Act to this effect.

Great pleasure is felt in Canada at the Queen's consent to open the new hospital for consumptive children at Toronto on Tuesday, June 3rd, by means of an electrical connection between Buckingham Palace and the hospital.

SOCIAL SERVICE.

"Standing still is childish folly,
Going backwards is a crime;
Onward, ye deluded Nations,
Onward, keep the march of Time."

Onward, and upward! Words full of inspiration, because they imply aspiration or high desire. This is the keynote of the social service among nurses, which is so rapidly spreading and so largely developing in all civilised countries of the present day.

The child belongs to the State. This truth—though obvious enough—has been but slowly grasped by us. Nevertheless, conviction has now tightened the grasp—hence the progress and the onwardness.

It is a far cry from Lycurgus (ninth century B.C.) to modern governments, yet it was the great Spartan law-giver who apparently first made laws for the protection of child life, and held as his great principle the responsibility of the State towards the child. But he went further than we do, for Lycurgus was a Eugenist, and would not allow any but healthy parents to marry. Pregnant women were tenderly cared for, as the procreation of healthy children was deemed by him a matter of supreme importance to the State.

Here we have in a nutshell the secret of the virile power of this ancient stoical people, and probably also of the renowned beauty and heroism of the Spartan women. So far-seeing and logical were they in their preventive treatment that it is worthy of a moment's consideration. Physical weakness was regarded as something to be ashamed of, because due to preventable causes. Lycurgus rightly believed that a healthy body was the suitable nidus for the development of a healthy mind, hence his laws respecting health were based on fundamentals. The result we know so well that Spartan strength and heroism have become proverbial. It is true that when sickly children were born they were dealt with as we deal with superfluous kittens! This treatment not squaring with Christianity is impossible of imitation. Nevertheless, if statistics were available we should probably find that infant mortality by these drastic and positive methods was much less in proportion to the population than in our *enlightened* day by our negative actions of fearful ignorance and neglect. It is inconceivable that in the year 1837, when Queen Victoria came to the throne, "there was not a single Act on the Statute Book of England framed for the welfare of children; ere she died she had set her sign-manual to over one hundred." "Until a few years ago, the right of a child to food, clothing, and such decent treatment as would make life just possible were things unknown to English law." It makes me hot with shame to think that early in last century children worked in the mines; children could be, and were,

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