

If possible the patient should be removed into another room once a week—so that the sick room may be thoroughly cleansed. She favours the occasional use of the vacuum cleaner which can be hired for 5s. a day, and adds “as dust is a dread enemy to health its scientific removal is a very important subject for consideration.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Describe the nursing of a case of enteric fever.

### THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF NURSES.

The Report on Higher Education in the State of New York U.S.A. issued by the New York State Education Department, submitted to the Legislature early in the year, and recently published, contains an exceedingly interesting section on Nurses' Registration.

First, in regard to hospitals, it points out that “when a hospital, either public or private, is opened, it at once organizes a nurse training school in order that it may make provision for the care of the patients. This is the primary purpose, and in too many instances the sole motive for organizing a training school. Whenever the hospital is without sufficient endowment for its maintenance, about the only hope it has of success lies in securing a sufficient number of pupil nurses to enable it to care for the patients at a minimum expense for nurses. It provides little or no money for the maintenance of its training school, but rather expects it to maintain itself and to show profit. This is true even of several of the older well established hospitals. . . . When a nurse has graduated, her field of labour as a rule is no longer in the institution where she received her training, but it is in the broader fields of nursing in the homes of the sick. The public interest therefore demands that she shall be thoroughly and well trained. This right of the public to protection from incompetent service the would-be registered school in many instances fails to realize. In the hospital's zeal for its own success it loses sight of the public good.” This is precisely where the Board of Regents, which is an educational authority, charged with the duty of maintaining efficient standards can exercise its influence and if necessary its authority—in the public interest.

Referring to the formation of a “National Organization for Public Health Nursing” the Report states. “The associations engaged in public health work already number over 1000 with nearly 3000 nurses. The activities of

these associations evidence very clearly not only the need of a thorough professional preparation but of a broad educational foundation. The following is a summary of the different branches. Public school nursing; anti-tuberculosis work; social service in connection with hospitals and dispensaries; welfare work (the work of the nurse employed by factory, mill, department store or other business firm to keep a general oversight over the health of all employees); child welfare work; the care of expectant mothers or prenatal work; special visiting nurse work under health department (in the control of scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria and trachoma); teachers of hygiene; school visitors; inspection of tenement house or general housing conditions; secretarial work for associations (nurses make most excellent and efficient working secretaries for children's aid societies, societies to prevent blindness, and agents under charitable societies); investigations on special lines (notable work has been done in making original researches and gathering material for report on committees of inquiry into social conditions).

“In addition to public health work the call is increasing constantly for teachers and administrators in institutions; the number in the registered schools in New York State alone being over 300.”

The Report quotes the Resolutions passed at the meeting of the International Congress of Nurses at Cologne on Registration, and the overstrain of nurses. On the question of progress it chronicles very definite progress along educational lines. The number of supervisors and paid instructors has increased, diet kitchens with desk equipment for class instruction, and class rooms equipped for instruction in nursing procedures are more frequently found. Six residences for nurses have been erected during the past two years . . . and several others are in process of construction. In every instance these residences have not only meant improved living conditions but better teaching facilities.

### OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

Four Five Shilling Prizes will be awarded in December for the best toys made at a cost of not more than 1s. The toys must be sent to the Editorial office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, with the coupon in the issue of December 6th.

All the toys will be sent to Superintendent Nurses, to be distributed to the poor little children spending Christmas in the smaller Poor Law Infirmaries, and should be made to stand wear and tear.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)