

proceeding, which it is to be hoped will soon be altered.

The nurses have spacious and airy quarters on raised ground above the hospital, not far removed from the bungalow for the European matron and sisters.

The Civil Hospital, Kandy, and the Lady Havelock Hospital, Colombo, are the only training schools in Ceylon, and it is a great responsibility for those who have this work to do, but a tremendous opportunity for the best and most earnest of English trained nurses to raise up and advance the cause of nursing the sick in this, one of our most important colonies in the East.

CONFERENCE ON INFANT MORTALITY.

The Conference on Infant Mortality, arranged by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and the Welfare of Infancy, will open at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on August 4th at 10 a.m.

In order to facilitate the attendance of those who are closely concerned with infant welfare work at this important Conference, on August 4th and 5th, it has been decided to admit nurses, midwives and health visitors, as far as the accommodation permits, at 5s. each, instead of £1 rs. For this sum they will be entitled to attend all the sessions, the reception to be given by the Duchess of Marlborough, and the public dinner (at 5s. each), if desired, and they will receive a voucher enabling them to travel to London and back from any part of the United Kingdom from August 2nd-6th at a single fare and a third.

Papers will be read and discussed dealing with many subjects of importance to nurses and other health workers, and those who wish to be present should apply for tickets to the Secretary, at 4, Tavistock Square, London, W.C., who will forward a programme and further particulars on request. Representatives from practically all our colonies and many from America and other countries will be present.

LEGISLATION TO CONTROL MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS.

The disreputable nature of many establishments purporting to receive patients for massage and electric treatment has long been an open scandal bringing a useful remedial agent into grave disrepute. On Tuesday last the Public Control Committee of the London County Council reported that they had had before them a communication from the Commissioner of the Police for the Metropolis calling attention to the large number of advertisements relating to establishments where massage, manicure and electric treatment are undertaken, displayed both in newspapers and on sandwich boards, and pointing out that the police have reason to believe that many of these places are no more than disorderly houses. The

police have no power to enter these places, and it is almost impossible to obtain warrants for the arrest of the persons responsible for their conduct, because informants, however reliable, will not incur the odium and disgrace of going into Court and giving evidence. The Commissioner is of opinion that systematic inspection and supervision is the only method of stamping out the evil, and suggested that the Council should obtain statutory authority to deal with these establishments.

The Public Control Committee report further that strong representations had been previously made to them by a deputation from a conference of London Societies interested in public morality. They speak of the matter as one of grave importance and urgency, and consider that no opportunity should be lost to deal immediately with the question.

They remind the Council that it already licenses employment agencies, and suggest that similar powers should be conferred on the Council with regard to massage establishments, which should be subject to annual registration and proper inspection. The interest of the Home Secretary has been secured, and it was hoped that an amendment with this object might be incorporated in the London County Council (General Powers) Bill, 1913, now before Parliament.

The Chairman of the Public Control Committee (Mr. P. C. Simmons), however asked permission to withdraw this recommendation so that the Committee might submit to the Council after the summer recess, proposals for legislation to empower the Council either to register or to license annually, nursing homes, or establishments where massage, electric treatment, or manicure is carried on. He had that day received from Mr. McKenna a letter saying it was impossible to insert in the 1913 Bill a clause of such importance, affecting so many interests, but Mr. Simmons hoped that the Council would deal with it next year.

The effect of such inspection would presumably be to eliminate undesirable establishments and license good ones, and the registration of nursing homes might usefully be included. At the same time, before introducing legislation intimately affecting these women workers, the Council should certainly confer with nurses and masseuses, and, if necessary, societies of both professions should meet and make recommendations to the Council.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The King has granted to the Newport and Monmouthshire Hospital the new title of the Royal Gwent Hospital, a name favoured by the late Viscount Tredegar, a generous benefactor of the institution.

Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) will open the completed building of the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Maida Vale, W., on Friday in this week.

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