

A great change has taken place in our Staff during the year, not once, but twice have we changed; and now only one of the original Nursing Staff remains with us. Although deploring the loss of our experienced and efficient Sisters, we yet rejoice at their success. They have all got excellent posts and handsome salaries. One has gone as Sister to a London Hospital, another to Buenos Ayres as the Maternity Sister in the Government Hospital, two more have gone to Australia to carry the gospel of Aseptic Midwifery to the Bush, another has gone to the United States as Lecturer on infant care, a sixth has been appointed Matron of the Maternity Hospital, Jamaica, and last, but not least, one woman, with magnificent courage, has gone as Medical Missionary to the Congo River, knowing full well the great hardships she has to encounter, and also that she will possibly lose the greatest gift of life—health. We have now Sisters in every Continent and Colony, for I have only enumerated this year's migration, but many have been filling posts abroad for some time.

THE PUBLIC CONTROL OF LYING-IN HOMES.

The Midwives' Act Committee of the London County Council, at Tuesday's meeting of the Council, reported that they had been impressed with the necessity, both from the sanitary and from the moral point of view, for some measure of public control being exercised over lying-in homes. They state that over 100 houses and institutions at which pregnant women are received are known to exist in London. The necessity for giving local authorities power to regulate such places was recognised in the amending Bills to the Midwives' Act introduced into the House of Lords in 1910; and the Committee report further that representations have been made to them by delegates from various charitable societies and others, that, as the result of the passing of the National Insurance Act, 1911, unmarried women who formerly obtained admittance to poor law institutions for their confinements, now, in many instances, receive maternity benefit under the Act, and enter lying-in homes at which, in some instances, they are subjected to immoral influences.

The Committee have considered (1) the licensing and (2) the registration of such homes. They consider the former alternative the better one, and think that the Council should seek powers to enable it to require such places to be licensed annually; and to revoke the licence if it appears in any case that the conditions existing at any such home are unsatisfactory. They recommend that notice shall be given by public advertisement of the intention of the Council to consider at its meeting on October 21st, 1913, a proposal that it shall take the necessary measures for promoting, in the session of Parliament of 1914, legislation to

confer upon it power to license lying-in homes in the County of London, and that it shall defray the cost and expenses of so doing out of the county fund.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

At a meeting of Governors of Queen Charlotte's Hospital last week, at which Lord Portman presided, the committee of management presented a report recommending the erection of a new out-patient department, and other additions necessary for the more efficient working of the Hospital. The Chairman of the committee, Sir Samuel Scott, in moving a resolution for the adoption of the report, said that the work was at present carried on under considerable difficulties, as the number of patients now dealt with was far in excess of that for which the present accommodation was provided nearly thirty years ago.

Dr. A. F. Stabb, F.R.C.P., in seconding the resolution, spoke of the great importance of the work done for the out-patients, and of the invaluable opportunities afforded for the instruction of qualified practitioners, students, and nurses, but it was greatly hampered by wholly inadequate accommodation. The resolution commending the scheme to the generous support of the governors and the public was adopted. About £1,000 has been received towards the £6,000 which it is estimated will be required.

INFANTS' FEEDING BOTTLES IN GERMANY.

The draft of the Bill regulating the sale of infants' feeding bottles in Germany is (states the *Lancet*) extremely brief and consists of three short paragraphs. In the first it is enacted that the manufacture, sale, importation, or stocking of infants' feeding bottles with a glass or indiarubber tube is forbidden, and the same applies to the component parts of such bottles. Infringement of this law will be punished by a fine not exceeding £7 10s., or punishment; at the same time the articles may be impounded whether they belong to the culprit or not. If a conviction of certain persons is impossible, seizure of the articles can take place. This law is to be enforced three months after its publication. In the introduction of the Bill it is stated that one-third of all cases of death among infants are due to affections of the digestive tract, and that medical men have declared that feeding bottles with tubes, owing to the difficulty of properly cleaning them, are particularly apt to cause gastro-intestinal disease.

It is unlikely that similar legislation will be initiated in this country, as we reverence the "liberty of the subject" too much to admit of any legislation so drastic. But there is no doubt that numerous infantile deaths are caused here, as in Germany, by the use of the long tube feeding-bottle.

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