

it does, a desire to improve the status of the nursing profession, why should it not be assented to by the Legislature just as readily as has been the case with other professions that have been brought under a systematic control? Our sympathies are with the Bill, and we hope that some serious effort will be made to get it on the Statute Book."

The patients at the North Evington Infirmary, Leicester greatly enjoyed their Summer treat last week, which was attended by a more than usually large number of guardians and friends, who displayed great interest in the excellent arrangements made for the event by the Chairman of the Committee (Mr. J. Gibson), Miss Masters (the matron), Mr. McKinlay (steward), and other officers of the institution. The weather was altogether favourable, and a large proportion of the patients were able to get or be brought into the grounds, whilst those perforce confined to their beds had cheery visitors, and suitable delicacies. The patients had "extras" for tea, and the visitors had an *al fresco* repast on the lawn, the band from the Countesthorpe Cottage Homes and a trio of Scotch pipers discoursing music meanwhile.

Sports, in which nurses, patients, and visitors participated, followed, and later on, in one of the wards, the company enjoyed a sketch, entitled "Domestic Entanglements," presented by members of the nursing staff.

Miss K. H. Wheatley writes from Constantinople, "I had several orders for materials from the samples sent home, and mentioned by you, and now that we are in full working swim, I am sending you more patterns and larger pieces. We have two industries, one at Broussa for the British Red Crescent, where we have 40 looms—and one at Scutari (Asia Minor) for Lady Lowther's Relief Committee, where there are 32 looms. We employ only widows and orphans amongst the refugees and soldiers' families. . . . I hope one of these days to tell you of all the interesting things that have, and keep on befalling me. The heat is terrific—I long for the sight of a green English lawn! But the work keeps on at high pressure, cottons, dyeing orders, selling, buying, all want seeing to all day, and every day. I am sure I shall get more orders through your paper."

The patterns sent by Miss Wheatley are pretty cottons in plain and checked colours, and the sale of them a real boon to the poor homeless women who have lost all that they value

in this terrible war. If any one can help the sale of these goods, we will forward patterns.

Sisters Warriner and Obee, of the Registered Nurses Society, who left London on December 26th last to work under the British Red Crescent Society in Turkey, have just returned home after much good work done, and many interesting experiences. Sister Obee's many friends will be glad to know that she has now recovered from her serious illness.

## NURSES AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

From first to last the conditions of trained nurses under the National Insurance Act received no consideration at all. They were just lumped into it under arrangements suitable for male artisans, and agricultural labourers—and it is no wonder that as time goes on the gross unfairness of their treatment becomes apparent.

The question of the future of young nurses, says the *Times*, now that the flat rate of contribution under the Insurance Act has ceased to apply to new entrants on insurance is causing considerable anxiety to those interested in the welfare of the nursing profession.

With very few exceptions, the larger hospitals will not accept a probationer until she is 22 or 23 years of age. Probationers of this age, unless previously insured, will be compelled under the Act to pay at the same rate as those who entered into insurance before July 15th, but they will not receive the same benefits. Whereas those insured during the first year of the Act's operation will receive 7s. 6d. sickness benefit, those entering now will only receive 5s. (if over 21). Nurses may be regarded as having a special claim to consideration in a national scheme for combating disease, and it is urged that the class in question are the more entitled to it in view of the fact that they have not cost the nation anything for insurance until they begin to qualify for their profession. It is felt that to exclude them from the operation of the flat rate is calculated to discourage young women of the class which the hospitals most desire to enlist for the nursing profession.

A suggestion has been made that a way might be found of overcoming the disability thus placed upon the newcomers. This suggestion is that all young women residing at home between the age of 17 and the age at which they may enter as probationers should be regarded as coming within the operation of

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