

taken her mental course as well, the ivory cross she wears has an ebonised upper surface. Indicative of a still higher degree of training is the silver brooch worn by the two Dutch nurses in Sheffield, which has on its bevelled rim, lettered in blue enamel, "Ned-Bond Voor Zickenverpleging." In the centre of the brooch is a silver stork, which indicates that the wearer is a qualified monthly nurse, and at the back is a number and a letter. This brooch is never the property of the nurse to whom it is issued, but belongs to the society which granted it as a badge of efficiency, and must be returned there at the nurse's death.

The reason why English nurses have been appointed by the Victorian Bush District Nursing Association is because Australasian nurses have not applied. Miss Edith M. Greer, the Superintendent, reports in *Una*, that the Bush nurse is, by virtue of her duties as school nurse, a part time education officer. Her work in this department may be roughly classed under three heads:—1st, Examination of children for defects; 2nd, as a teacher of hygiene; 3rd, as teacher of first-aid in emergency.

Under the first heading comes examination of children for defects in teeth, sight, nose and throat, hearing, and general nutrition. The result of these examinations is noted on a schedule, which is sent to the Education Department, also the parents are notified, and advice given *re* obtaining medical treatment, and on general health, thus it will be seen what an important factor in the health of the community such work is.

Under the second heading comes teaching on personal cleanliness, care of the hair, teeth, skin, and surroundings, the value of open windows, and the dangers attendant on overcrowding.

From her intimate knowledge of the conditions of the people in her district, she has the opportunity to talk with parents in a manner in which no schoolmaster or medical officer ever has the chance of getting an opening for.

Under the third heading come instruction in first aid in emergencies, such as temporary splints, arresting of hæmorrhage, restoring of apparently drowned, treatment of poisons, which, owing to the great distance from medical aid in the country, are invaluable school work, and cannot fail to have a great effect on the conditions under which coming generations will live in the home, and a greater knowledge of the comforts and even the decencies of existence; and this great responsibility rests largely

in the hands of the Bush nurse, as early detection of serious defects allows of their being remedied, which defects, if neglected, may seriously handicap people through their lives.

It has been Miss Greer's duty to be present with Dr. Jean Greig at the medical examination of the pupils of a large State school, and the number of conditions which are notified and brought under the parents' notice is truly astonishing.

#### POOR LAW NURSING.

Since our last issue there have been several changes in the Cabinet—one of which may have important results for nurses working under the Poor Law. Mr. John Burns has been appointed President of the Board of Trade, and he has been succeeded as President of the Local Government Board by Mr. Herbert Samuel. Poor Law nurses will look forward eagerly to a new policy at the Local Government Board, where under the recent *régime* their professional interests have received little sympathy or support. The new President has a splendid chance of reorganizing and modernizing the nursing service at his command, and as a result providing the sick all over the country in Poor Law Institutions with efficient nursing care. But this cannot be done without intelligent co-operation with experts, and recognising the absolute necessity of providing a system of State Registration of Trained Nurses, so as to define the minimum standard of efficiency, and thus to provide an incentive to well-educated, reliable women to adopt nursing as their profession. At present there is a great shortage of the right type of women, prepared to enter Poor Law Infirmaries and Fever Hospitals for training, and an increasing depreciation in the quality of nurses whose services are available.

Let us hope the new President will start right away on new and progressive lines, and that the neglect and suffering of the poor in many institutions for which he is responsible will soon be a thing of the past. Shorter hours of work, better training, higher salaries, and legal status for nurses will do much to help to remedy many evils which cry aloud for redress in the smaller Poor Law Infirmaries.

To prove the great need for better discipline in these institutions we have only to mention a case described by a Superintendent Nurse as "a little bit of Christmas jollity." This "jollity" consisted in certain of the nurses dressing up in men's clothes, and attending a party, in the Workhouse, of the officers, male and female. Not content with such a lack of

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