

Most interesting is the electrical department in charge of a Sister, possessed of all the latest appliances. In the out-patient department the cupboards provided for the convenience of each member of the visiting staff are marvels of ingenuity. There is space—ample space—for coat and top hat in each section, and yet not an inch to spare. This, like so many of the special features of the Infirmary, was designed by its Medical Superintendent, Dr. Mackintosh, LL.D., M.V.O., whose genius in hospital construction and equipment is recognized far and wide, and who is consequently consulted as to the designs of many hospitals.

The course of nurse training is for four years, and the Matron, Miss Gregory-Smith, who was herself trained at the Western Infirmary, takes a keen interest in the education of the nurses. During the first three months the pupils are on probation, and receive preliminary instruction in the form of practical teaching and lectures. During this time, if found ineligible, the pupil is entitled to a fortnight's notice. During the four years, massage as well as sick room cookery is taught, and both the Matron and Assistant Matron give theoretical instruction to the nurses. The high reputation in which the certificate of the Infirmary is held is too well known to need emphasis.

M. B.

CHILDREN AT STOBHILL HOSPITAL.

At my special request, during my recent delightful visit to the Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, the Matron, Miss Wright, kindly allowed me to see the children at school. Escorted by the Home Sister, I visited the children's pavilion. A very competent and experienced head teacher good-naturedly allowed me to pick her brains on the system of education which is adopted here. In lofty, well-ventilated school rooms a large number of children were being taught on the co-education principle. The order and discipline were admirable. Boys and girls seemed keen and interested. I was somewhat surprised and deeply interested to learn that the now famous Montessori principle of education for young children had been partially adopted here, that is to say, it was combined with a system of their own.

The head teacher, Mrs. Woodbine, considers dancing of great educational value. By exercising and developing all the muscles of the body, it reacts upon the brain and quickens the intellect. There is a marked improvement in the intelligence of the children following upon their dancing education. There is also a system of dancing combined with games; this my informant considered also of great value. It was curious to learn that old country dances of England are being revived and taught in Scotland, and the old

country dances of Scotland are being revived and taught in the English schools. So much of the apparent stupidity of the children upon admittance is due to badly nourished bodies. Good food combined with the admirable system of education soon make a change, and the average intelligence, I was informed, was very good. Class singing is of course also a necessary feature of the education. The sight of the *sick* children in their own wards was a heartaching sight, so many of them were obviously the victims of inherited syphilis. Poor little innocent victims! Disease and death stamped upon their pale puny faces. How long, the heart cries in anguish, is this slaughter of the innocents to go on? Preventive hygiene, public health agencies, health exhibitions—to what purpose are they all when life is being poisoned at its source! It is high time eugenic laws were in force.

Glasgow may be justly proud of its splendid Poor Law Hospitals; there are probably no finer in the kingdom. The only pity is that such places are needed.

BEATRICE KENT.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The King and Queen paid a visit to St. Thomas' Hospital on Monday, and were shown round the wards by the Secretary, and the Matron Miss Lloyd Still. Their Majesties expressed great pleasure and satisfaction with all the arrangements of this fine hospital.

The Queen has sent a gift of £10 to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen towards the building of the "Queen Mary" hospital steamer.

Mr. Waldorf Astor, M.P., will preside over a Discussion at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., on Tuesday, 10th March, at 7.30 p.m. Discussion, "Social Conditions in Relation to Public Health," will be opened by papers on "The Prevention of Tuberculosis from the Social Side," by Dr. Hilda Clark, and "The Social Aspect of the Housing Question," by Dr. F. E. Freemantle. Tea and coffee will be served before and after the meeting. District nurses and midwives should be specially interested in these questions.

Lord Hambleden presided at the annual Court of the Governors of King's College Hospital recently, and the report showed that the number of patients attending the out-patient department was already three times as large as that at the old hospital, and the increase in emergency surgical cases also showed the need for the hospital in the locality. In moving the adoption of the report the Chairman declared that the hospital was doing as much work in a week as it had been doing in a month a year ago.

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