

### PERSONAL NICETIES.

Many people are glad to know where skilful treatment for the removal of superfluous hairs by electrolysis may be obtained. Miss Theakston, 54, Devonshire Street, Great Portland Street, W., who gives both treatment and lessons, in electrolysis, face massage, hair and scalp treatment, and manicure, is in a central and convenient position close to both bus routes, and the Inner Circle of the Metropolitan Railway.

Nurses find that the lessons in the above subjects are a great help to them in their work, and private nurses especially find the skill they so gain of much advantage to their patients, as niceties of this kind are not included in their hospital training. If more than one subject is taken a special reduction is made. Miss Theakston's hours of attendance are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### LEGAL MATTERS.

It will be remembered that the L.C.C. refused to renew the application for a licence for 1914 by Mr. S. A. Flemmer to carry on the Harley Institute of Certificated and Male and Female Nurses. An appeal lodged against this decision was dismissed by the magistrate of the Marylebone Police Court.

The Public Control Committee of the L.C.C. reported on March 31st that an application was subsequently submitted in the joint names of Mr. Flemmer and Miss M. L. Rusbridge, in respect of the Alexander Agency for Certificated Nurses, at the above-mentioned address.

The hearing was fixed for February 28th, 1914, and notice of objection was given by the Council on the grounds that the applicants were unsuitable persons to hold a licence, and that an employment agency had been improperly conducted by the first-named applicant.

Before the date fixed for the hearing the applicants' legal representative asked that the hearing might be postponed as Miss Rusbridge (now described as Mrs. Flemmer) was suffering from a nervous breakdown.

The Licensing Committee asked that a medical certificate should be produced, which was sent on March 9th, the applicants' legal representative, acting on their behalf, having withdrawn the application for a licence on March 7th.

If State Registration of Nurses was in force all this ambiguity as to who is and who is not a fit person to conduct a private Nurses' Association would be at an end, and laymen and others exploiting persons to nurse the sick for gain would be compelled to conform to the standards demanded by the Statutory Authority, empowered by the Act to define a "registered nurse." As it is, any lay person may make money by sending out anyone in a cap and apron he chooses, as "certificate" has no legal significance. The sick public suffers injury first and last.

### ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the twenty-fifth meeting of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases evidence was given by Dr. J. Risien Russell, who had been nominated to appear before the Commission by the Royal College of Physicians.

Dr. Russell's evidence was chiefly concerned with the relation of syphilis to general paralysis, locomotor ataxy, and to nervous diseases as a whole. He was unable to give any statistics, but he stated that he had come to the conclusion that syphilis is very often the cause of nervous diseases, and that without syphilis general paralysis of the insane and locomotor ataxy would not exist.

In the case of general paralysis he had not had experience of any form of treatment which resulted in the cure of the disease or in arresting its progress. Locomotor ataxy could, however, be very definitely influenced for good by treatment.

On the subject of the Wassermann test Dr. Russell said that the test should only be relied on when performed by some recognised expert, and that one negative result should not be regarded as conclusive. He thought that there would be advantages in the standardizing of the test.

Dr. Russell was not in favour of notification of venereal diseases. Such a measure he considered would lead to patients having recourse to quack treatment.

The evil of quackery he regarded as a very serious one, and more especially with respect to venereal diseases he thought that the law dealing with quack treatment and advertisements needed strengthening.

At the twenty-sixth meeting Dr. Douglas White gave evidence. Dr. White submitted an estimate which he had made of the prevalence of venereal diseases in the United Kingdom. No direct statistical basis is at present available for the purposes of such an estimate, but from a consideration of the existing statistics regarding venereal diseases in this country, and a careful comparison (in which an attempt was made to allow for difference of conditions) with the estimate which has been made as a result of a statistical enquiry in Prussia, Dr. White arrived at the conclusion that there were every year 122,500 fresh cases of venereal disease in London and 800,000 fresh cases in the United Kingdom.

He computed that of the 800,000 fresh cases 114,000 would be syphilis and the remaining 686,000 cases gonorrhoea and chancroid. From these figures he deduced that there must be in the United Kingdom some 3,000,000 syphilitics.

As regards syphilis, Dr. White compared these results with the estimate obtained by assuming that a certain percentage of cases of syphilis find a conclusion in general paralysis or locomotor ataxy. The figures obtained from the results of notification in Denmark had led to the con-

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