

us, and while we partook of it we were entertained by musical drill by the children from the "Nest." The work of the "Slum Officers" was demonstrated with vivid realism by means of tableaux vivants.

The first scene represented sweated workers making crackers at the princely remuneration of 2½d. a gross! No time to feed the children. One officer is seen cutting bread and jam, the other is helping the tired women with their work. "The Drunkard's Home"—with everything smashed on the floor—we were glad to hear had been transformed, and the characters reformed. The "Slum Officers" receive some training in nursing, infant care, and hygiene.

It would seem almost an impertinence to praise the work of the Salvation Army. The good that is done is self-evident, and is known throughout the world. The atmosphere of kindness, courtesy and love and goodwill that prevails is a palpable and uplifting influence, and is sufficient explanation of the great success of the work. It was a day that none who experienced it could easily forget.

By the kindness of Commissioner Adelaide Cox we are able to publish the picture of poor little Liverpool Joe. Joe's father ran away and left his mother with four children. She works hard to keep them, but occasionally takes too much to drink. Little Joe, who is ten years old, prays for his mother, and says "May the public houses be closed for ever."

THE SLUM SISTER'S "CHARTER."

Here is the Slum Sister's "Charter." It could scarcely be bettered:—

Nurse the sick; attend the dying; visit the poor; feed the hungry; clothe the naked; care for the aged; look after the children; visit the lodging houses; visit the hospitals; visit the workhouses; visit the prisons; visit the public houses; hold mothers' meetings; conduct Sunday schools for children who do not attend anywhere; befriend the fallen, and bring salvation to all.

LEGAL MATTERS.

A PROBATIONER NURSE COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

At a coroner's inquest on the body of a female child recently a verdict of manslaughter was returned against a probationer nurse at a provincial infirmary, who had concealed the birth of the child by placing it in her dressing-table drawer. The jury strongly recommended her to mercy. She was committed for trial at the Assizes.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST HOSPITAL SISTER.

Miss Martha Chilman, a ward sister at the Smethwick and Oldbury Fever Hospital, was on Tuesday, May 19th, charged at Birmingham with setting fire to the institution. The fire brigade who were summoned prevented the flames from spreading before much damage was done, but it was discovered that the buildings were on fire in three places. The accused on arrest denied all knowledge of the matter, saying she was as innocent as a babe. She was remanded in custody.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

Evidence was given at the thirty-sixth meeting of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases by Sir Clifford Allbutt, Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Cambridge.

Sir Clifford, whose evidence related mainly to arterial disease, stated that syphilis was by far the gravest of the infectious diseases of the arteries, and that it was particularly grave in its tendency to cause aneurysms of which probably 95 per cent. were syphilitic.

He thought it probable that if infection with syphilis were dealt with at an early stage and by the most modern methods of treatment the occurrence of these syphilitic diseases of the arteries might be avoided.

In cases where syphilitic disease of the aorta did occur it was of enormous importance that it should be dealt with at the earliest possible moment and with the greatest and promptest vigour.

At the thirty-seventh meeting evidence was given by Mrs. Wethered and Miss Amy Hughes representing a large and representative meeting of ladies interested in rescue work which was held some time ago under the presidency of Her Royal Highness Princess Christian. At this meeting the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting, consisting of rescue workers, matrons of hospitals and workhouses, district nurses, lady guardians, and others, advocates a system of confidential notification (by doctors) to a specially appointed sanitary authority as the only means of avoiding the law of libel, and so insuring proper precautions being taken against danger to the community and especially to innocent persons."

Mrs. Wethered submitted to the Commission particulars of a number of cases which had occurred in her experience, illustrating the necessity of telling the truth with regard to this matter, and of recognising the infectious nature of these diseases.

THE PASSING BELL.

Many nurses, who were at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the eighties, as well as a wide circle of friends, will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Stephen Townesend, F.R.C.S., at the comparatively early age of fifty-four. The immediate cause of his death was pneumonia, but he had been ill for many months. Mr. Townesend, whose dramatic talent was evident throughout his medical career eventually abandoned medicine for literature, and in collaboration with Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett wrote a number of plays, in some of which he took the principal part. Unquestionably the best of his books was "A Thoroughbred Mongrel"—a pathetic and charming story which has delighted thousands of readers all over the world.

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