

NURSING OF INSURED PERSONS.

PROPOSED SCHEME FOR LONDON.

The members of the London Insurance Committee last week were considerably impressed by the able speech of Miss Z. L. Puxley in moving that it be referred to the General Purposes Sub-Committee to consider and report as to the adoption of a scheme for the nursing of insured persons. Under Section 21 of the Insurance Act, 1911, the Committee can grant subscriptions for the support of district nurses.

Miss Puxley said that if the needs of the sick poor were considered at all the necessity for district nursing was absolutely plain. The attention of a doctor in many cases was quite inadequate without being followed up by the services of a trained nurse; without her assistance the instructions of the doctor were often not carried out at all. The duration of sickness could be much shortened by nursing attention. After investigation of this matter she had been amazed to find in how large a number of cases this was undoubtedly true. In a case in which a woman had dressed her own arm for ten months without obtaining an improvement, in four weeks under constant and careful attention the patient had been able to return to work. This was an aspect of the case which must appeal to approved societies. Miss Puxley mentioned that district associations had nursed insured and uninsured alike and from an analysis of 10,000 cases it appeared that 2,100 cases—or, roughly, one-fifth—were insured persons. Since the passing of the Insurance Act the tendency had been for more patients to be attended in their own homes, and for doctors, on the whole, to send for nurses more than in the past. It had been very difficult for nursing associations to meet this increased demand on account of the very definite shrinkage of voluntary funds, and she feared the voluntary bodies would not continue to assist insured persons without receiving some financial help.

Dr. Lauriston E. Shaw, who seconded, complimented Miss Puxley on her very able speech, and remarked that it was quite impossible for the work of medical men to go on satisfactorily without the assistance of nurses. A definite scheme should be formulated whereby the co-ordination of the work of doctor and nurse might be arranged. Only with the assistance of the nurse could satisfactory medical attendance be given to the large insured population. Doctors whose work was mainly in hospitals scarcely realised how very much more difficult was the position of the general practitioner in regard to the assistance of trained nurses.

Mrs. Handel Booth objected that it was not the duty of the Insurance Committee to initiate new policies of this kind; it was only a committee of management, and its funds were very definitely allocated.

Nevertheless, the Committee decided, by 35 votes to 18, to instruct the Sub-Committee to report.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The King of Sweden announced, in his speech at the opening of the Riksdag, that a Government Bill to enfranchise Women would be introduced this session.

The *Times* correspondent writes that "Referring to woman suffrage, the Speech states that both justice and the welfare of the State now demand that the rights of political citizenship be extended to women."

How long, we wonder, before King George will have the pleasure of referring to the women of this country, in the same honourable manner?

The following resolution proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Mrs. Creighton, and influentially supported, was passed unanimously on Monday last, at the Public Health Sectional Committee of the National Union of Women Workers:—

"That as the National Union of Women Workers has, from its foundation, placed the moral aspect of preventive and rescue work in the forefront of its programme with beneficent result, it is desirable that the Union should also take up the question of the prevention of Venereal Diseases from the standpoint of the National Health."

A sub-committee was appointed to deal with the matter.

The Women Writers' Suffrage League has arranged for a "Reception of Famous Living Authors," to be held on February 3rd, at the Caxton Hall, from 3 to 6 p.m. Many well-known men and women writers have promised either to give ten-minute readings from their own works, or to present autographed copies of their own books for sale. Among those who have promised are Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, Miss S. MacNaughtan, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart (who will read from her recently-published book, "War and Women"), Mr. W. L. George, and the favourite song-writer, Mr. Fred Weatherley. The chair will be taken by Miss Lena Ashwell, and Madame Lydia Yavorska is to recite. Tea will be served during the afternoon, and a notable feature of the meeting will be the cakes, scones, &c., made and contributed by famous women writers.

From a circular issued by the Emigrants' Information Office, to intending emigrants to Canada, there appears to be an over supply of mechanics and labourers in the main industrial centres. There is, the circular further states, a demand for female servants, both in towns and on farms, but the demand for trained nurses, governesses, lady helps, typists, factory girls, and educated women (except teachers) is very small.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)