

We commend to our readers' attention the report presented to the Parliamentary Committee of the L.C.C. by the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, published on page 514 of our issue of December 20th last.

THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

Many points of nursing interest came up for consideration at the meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board on Saturday last.

Sir Arthur Downes, M.D., Chairman of the Provisional Committee of the L. G. B. Conference on District Nursing in London wrote inviting the manager to nominate a representative to serve on the Central Council now being established.

It was agreed to pay Miss J. F. Breheny, a First Assistant Nurse at the North Eastern Hospital, the sum of £425 to redeem the weekly payment of 15s. 9d. awarded her under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

It was agreed to extend the grant of long service pay to holders of the obsolete office of Superintendent of Night Nurses, and to the grades of Home Sister and Superintendent Sister at the Children's Hospital. The Finance Committee recommended special increases of pay to nurses after five and ten years' continuous service; and that a pension of £124 4s. be paid to Mrs. Eugenie Warren, late Matron at Caterham Asylum, and that at the Joyce Green Hospital Sisters should be paid at the rate of £40, rising in two years to £46, and staff nurses at £30, rising to £36.

We are glad, also, that on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee the Board adopted a common sense policy in regard to the application of various groups of employees to wear the badge, in the form of a brooch or button, of their union, in spite of the fact that Mr. H. Mount Somerby moved that the matter should be referred back. He asked: "Did the recommendation mean that members of the staff could wear the badge of any political party to which they might belong. He could imagine the look of pleasurable anticipation on the faces of certain members on being received by a gate porter wearing the badge of the Tariff Reform League, or certain other members on being waited on by a nurse wearing the badge of some Liberal association, or again, what was to prevent the wearing of badges by some of the nurses who belonged to suffragist organisations? It would be dangerous to allow those who were teaching the children to wear any badge they liked. They might wear that of the Rationalist Association or the Clarion Scouts.

Mr. Highley asked why suffragist nurses should not wear badges, and Mr. Garrity said that within the limits of decency he would let any man wear what he liked.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

PRACTICAL NURSING.*

The latest and fourth edition of "Practical Nursing" by the late Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and Dr. Herbert Cuff, F.R.C.S., Principal Medical Officer to the Metropolitan Asylums Board is a welcome addition to the nursing text books written on thoroughly practical and scientific lines, and is we believe the only one in which a member of the medical profession and an experienced Matron have collaborated, and thus have attained the happiest results.

The present edition, in the revision of which Dr. Cuff has had the assistance of Dr. W. T. Gordon Pugh, Medical Superintendent of Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton, has been re-arranged and enlarged, but through the use of a smaller type the original size of the book has been retained. Its dedication is simply "To the Memory of Isla Stewart," a memory instinct with the remembrance of a personality warm-hearted and loyal—loyal to the hospital over whose Nursing School she ruled with conspicuous success, to the profession in which she attained first rank, whose interests she ever placed before her own, and to those whom she honoured with a friendship as true as it was generous.

The contents of the book are now divided into three parts—general nursing, medical nursing, and surgical nursing. The first chapter, as heretofore, is devoted to "Nursing as a profession," and in this we wish that Dr. Cuff had had the assistance of an experienced nurse to bring it up-to-date. The arrangement of the succeeding chapters is practically the same except that the nursing and feeding of sick children are now divided: "Infant Feeding" being included in Part I and the "Nursing of Sick Children" in Part II.

The chapter on Infant Feeding which is new material should be carefully studied. It emphasises the importance of breast feeding, and gives directions for the management of the mother during lactation, the best method of weaning, and the subsequent diet. The Artificial Feeding of Infants is then considered, including General Observations on Foods in Infancy. Milk and its composition, the comparison of human and cow's milk, and the modification of cow's milk are discussed.

The next section deals with the management of infant feeding, and tables are given showing the daily amounts suitable for an average infant of normal weight. Other foods are then discussed and the weight chart in use at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children is published. The chapter is a distinct gain to the book.

The chapter on Medicines and their Administration is most important as well as practical.

*Published by William Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh and London.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)