

expensive men, that the latter should not be thrown out of work by injuries of which the serious consequences might easily have been avoided if the wounds had been kept clean from the first. He believed that before very long no works employing a considerable number of people would feel their organization complete unless they had a nurse on the premises.

The Lord Mayor of Leeds, Mr. Charles Lupton, presiding at the Annual Meeting of the Leeds District Nursing Association, referred to the excellent report given to the nurses by the inspector, and said that the good name the nurses had gained throughout the city was probably a sufficient criterion of their work. He did not know whether the results of their work produced the happiness of the nurses, or whether the happiness of the nurses led to their work being so excellent. A bright, cheerful nurse was more likely to be a success than one who was overworked.

The Archbishop of Dublin, who presided over the Annual Meeting of supporters of St. Patrick's Home for Supplying Trained Nurses to the Sick Poor, said that he had lived hard by St. Patrick's Cathedral in the slums for a considerable time, and had seen for himself something of the work the St. Patrick's nurses did. There were no persons who took a more sympathetic interest in their work. The City of Dublin owed a great deal to them. He expressed the meeting's gratitude to the faithful women who, in sunshine and storm, worked day by day among the poor, without advertisement, without their names being known outside the walls of the Home.

Miss H. M. Hutton said that Florence Nightingale was known as "the Lady with the Lamp"; the St. Patrick's Nurse was popularly known as "the Lady with the Bag," and was as eagerly looked for, and as welcome, as Florence Nightingale had been at Scutari.

The annual report mentioned that owing to the reduction in the size of many families, and the excellent separation allowances received, there had been a decrease of poverty, which had exercised a beneficial effect on the health of the people.

Memorials to the late Miss Cavell are being organized in many directions. Wallesey's tribute to her memory was paid last week, when the Mayor and Mayoress were present at the Victoria Central Hospital, Liscard, at the unveiling of a mural tablet commemorative of the gift to the institution of a sum of £320 raised by public subscription.

BABIES' CAMPS.

"If so soon as this I'm done for,
I wonder what I was begun for."

This pitiful epitaph might be written over tens of thousands of little graves in the crowded cemeteries of our large towns.

To what purpose is this waste?

And wherein lies the remedy?

Statistics show that among the many other causes of the high rate of infant mortality in the first year of life, there are two factors—artificial feeding, and want of proper air space.

It is obvious, having regard to the so-called freedom of the citizen, that in the vast majority of cases the infant must be left to the sweet will of the mother, be she good, indifferent, or not quite too bad. If she oversteps the badness the law can intervene and often does so with indifferent success. In this direction the Infant Welfare Society does excellent work in the education of the mother. But it is to the thorny question of the illegitimate child, and the unmarried mother, that the State needs to turn its attention, for it is from them that the appeal comes, and it is only possible to help those who are willing to accept assistance. This class of infants in a large majority are separated from their mothers in the first critical weeks of their lives.

They are born for the most part in maternity homes, lying-in hospitals or in workhouse infirmaries. It is only in the last-named institution that the mother can, if she so desire, remain in touch with her infant. But this course, if beneficial to the child, is disastrous to the young mother, as her surroundings tend to her demoralisation. At the end of a month the girl usually returns to service, or other work, and places her infant with strangers at a payment of 5s. a week (with milk at 5d. a quart). Small wonder if, with the best intentions, the foster-mother diminishes the milk, and makes up the bulk with barley water. A case came under our notice the other day, where a child of seven months was getting one pint of milk and *five parts* of barley water in the twenty-four hours. The Infant Life Protection Act ensures that the homes selected for this purpose are suitable, and that the foster-mothers are fit and proper persons to have the care of infants. Given ideal conditions, it must be acknowledged that this system is the best possible method of dealing with this problem, as it ensures the individual care and nurturing which alone can bring any measure of success to infant rearing. But even here are objections. First, the child is separated from the mother. It is difficult to find a sufficient number of homes for this purpose. There is the risk that the mother from one cause or another may fail to keep up her payments, and all but a very few women of the poorer classes, though well-intentioned and, as a rule, devoted to their charges, are ignorant of the first principles of artificial feeding and obstinate in their use of the "comforter."

Babies' Homes have been tried over and over

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)