

## NOTIFICATION OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

A strong appeal signed by a number of prominent social workers has appeared in the press inviting all mothers and wives to join in demanding notification of venereal diseases. Taking into consideration the terrible ravages venereal disease is making, the writers feel it their duty as women, and on behalf of the present and future generations of the Empire, to urge that speedy steps are taken to assure more effective action now, although fully realising the excellent work the Commission is doing as regards educating the public, and pressing forward provision for free treatment for the sufferers. They plead the extreme urgency of the question owing to the number of men passing through England, the fact that by contagion, or for hereditary reasons innocent persons are constant sufferers, and that it is the duty of the State to protect them. The obvious remedies for every contagious disease are notification and compulsory treatment, and other dangerous and contagious diseases are thus treated. Those who agree with these views are invited to communicate with Lady Askwith, or the Hon. Mrs. Graham Murray, at 12, Hans Crescent, London, S.W., and to join in insisting that this hideous evil be fought by every means within our power.

The National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases is not in favour of compulsory notification, which it believes must be futile unless accompanied by police measures for enforcing treatment which could not be given until full facilities have been made available to all classes.

We entirely agree that present facilities for treatment are inadequate. They should be provided, but, as one who took an active part some years ago in urging the National Union of Women Workers to take an interest in the prevention of this terrible scourge, we are strongly in favour of compulsory notification as the logical and effective means of dealing with these diseases.

## LEGACIES TO NURSES.

Mr. David Henry Gregory Chambers, of North Croydon, who died on July 22nd, left estate of the gross value of £19,621, of which £16,955 is net personalty. The testator left £785 to Mary Elizabeth Mitchell, a nurse with the British Expeditionary Force.

Mr. Augustus Broom, 79A, Pall Mall, S.W., who died on August 18th, left estate value £6,430. He gave by will to Nurse L. L. Wooldridge £50, furniture, and £2,000 in trust for life; £25 to Nurse Gladys Burgell.

## THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

At an examination for Women Health Visitors and School Nurses held by the Royal Sanitary Institute at Liverpool on October 13th and 14th, seven candidates presented themselves, and the following four were granted certificates:—Lily Cragg (Aughton), Agnes Clara Hughes (Ruyton-Eleven-Towns), Annie Winifred Parker (Waterloo), Ellen Thompson (Parkstone).

## "CAPTAINS ALL."

(With apologies to Mr. W. W. Jacobs.)

If somebody decided to compile a new dictionary, how would he or she define the word "Nurse"? Had the great Doctor Johnson himself been alive, it might well have given him much food for thought and caused him to drink innumerable cups of tea, for the "Nurse" is a wonderful being, and

"Age cannot wither nor custom stale  
Her infinite variety."

Here are some of the best-known varieties, and no doubt there are many, many others:—

Group 1.—To begin with what may be described as the legitimate stage of the nursing profession, there is, right at the top, the glorified Nurse who is Matron of a large General Hospital or Poor Law Infirmary. All Matrons, whether of large or small hospitals, are glorified Nurses; they only differ in degree. The Matron is Queen of her own small State, and she usually looks and plays the part in a regal manner.

Assistant Matron	-	-	less glorified.
Night Superintendent	-	-	still less glorified.
Theatre Sister	-	-	" " "
Ward Sister	-	-	" " "
All other Sisters	much about the same.		
Staff Nurse	-	-	very moderate degree of glory.
Senior Pro.	-	-	No glory—important.
Junior Pro.	-	-	Nobody—a mere worm.

The lot of the humble Junior Pro. has its compensations, though it may not appear so at first sight. She knows that from Matron down (including Matron, of course), they all have once been Pros. None of them have blossomed forth in a day or a week. And there is even a hope that she herself may one day be a Matron! But not before long, long years of hard work have come and gone. Even her dreams of being a Sister are faint and far-away. There are many examinations to be passed and not only on paper. Her personal character, temperament, work and progress will have been watched long and closely by eyes that see, and judged by minds whose aim is "the greatest good of the greatest number," before each step of promotion.

Group 2.—A branch of the "legitimate" stage—the Mental, Fever, and all other special hospitals, where the glory of the Nurse diminishes on a similar scale, until there is none left for the Pro. or second Assistant Nurse.

Group 3.—When we come out into the world, we find the trained Nurse (belonging to the first group):

Fever trained	Nurse	Midwife.
Mental "	"	Housekeeper.
Semi "	"	Masseuse.

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