

and Secretary's room, while her private rooms are on the second floor.

The nurses are by no means forgotten; their quarters comprise a dining-room, sitting-room, and silence room, a visitors' room, and a bedroom for each nurse, prettily furnished; those for the night nurses are placed apart in the administrative block, for the sake of quietness. In their bathroom there is provision for shampooing the hair, and hot rails over which it can subsequently be dried. Each Sister has a bedroom and shares a common sitting-room.

Below, in the spacious basement, are the kitchens, fitted with the latest devices for cooking. These are to be in charge of a lady cook, who will control this department. In the basement also are comfortably-fitted cubicles for the wardmaids and servants.

An adjoining block contains the pathological department, post mortem room and the mortuary chapel.

Lady Cowdray has been a generous donor to the hospital, and amongst her many gifts is a really lovely Wedgwood tea service, with a peacock pattern. It will indeed be sad if it should follow the fate of most hospital crockery.

The hospital is to be an Adamless Eden, and with the exception of the engineer and gardener there will be no man upon the premises. Women are to do porters' work. As yet there are no patients in the hospital—indeed, the workmen are still busy. It would be almost a luxury to be ill there, and if anything could take away the dread that so many people feel of hospitals and their surroundings it would be this magnificently-equipped building in South London. "Behold, the half is not told" you of all that is to be seen there in the shape of modern developments, but we have not space to set them out in detail.

H. H.

### NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMBATING VENEREAL DISEASES.

Under the auspices of this Council a meeting of Head Mistresses was held on Friday, July 7th, at 5.0 p.m., at 1, Wimpole Street (by kind permission of the Royal Society of Medicine), to consider the educational recommendations of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases. The good attendance showed the interest that the subject is arousing in the minds of a class of women, who, a decade ago, would—we feel sure—have prudishly rejected it as outside their profession and morally improper! All honour to them for their common sense and open-mindedness. It is just because venereal disease is morally very improper that the meeting was held.

Mrs. Creighton, in her opening remarks from the chair, made helpful suggestions, in order to encourage the members of the audience to ask questions and express opinions after the address.

Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., M.S., then addressed the meeting. She reminded her hearers that the

nature of the meeting was a *conference*, in which it was hoped all would take part. After explaining that the Royal Commission—upon which, it will be remembered, both she and Mrs. Creighton sat—was convened, because it was felt that the time had come to stem the awful tide of venereal disease, she gave some figures concerning infant mortality, due to these diseases, which are startling in their number and seriously alarming in their warning and menace. Of the 800,000 babies born in England and Wales every year, about 100,000 die in their first year; of these, 20,000 die in the first week and 30,000 during the first month of life. It is clear, therefore, that these infants die from some cause operating in their bodies before birth. In emphasising the gravity of it, the speaker said it was a *woman's question*, and, therefore, it is our duty as women to help to stem this tide of preventable disease. In her opinion, the Royal Commission had been appointed at a fortunate time, because historical evidence has shown that there is always an aggravation of these diseases at the expiration of every war; we may, therefore, expect it at the close of this war. The result of the investigations of Flexner—the great American authority—on this matter, has been that 10 per cent. of all men in large towns suffer from syphilis, and that 80 per cent. suffer from gonorrhoea. Men infecting their wives thus, cause the disease and death of infants. "It lies with you," said the speaker, with compelling insistence, "largely to prevent these things; you, who have charge of the young, must present the highest possible standard of morals to them." The question of the age at which children should receive moral instruction and enlightenment upon the facts of life was dealt with tentatively by the speaker. No hard and fast rules, she maintained, could be laid down; the child's character must be the guide; she strongly objected to falsehoods being told to children—such as the ridiculous old fables of the doctor's bag and the gooseberry bush! Mrs. Scharlieb made a great and necessary point of the children receiving their instruction on these matters from the *right* people, *viz.*, the father, the mother and the teacher.

The teachers showed their interest and appreciation of the address by entering heartily into the discussion which followed.

B. K.

### THE CARE OF THE SCHOOL CHILD.

Dr. W. J. Howarth, Medical Officer of Health for the City of London, was the lecturer on July 12th at the London Day Training College, Southampton Row, W.C. His subject was "Infection In and Out of School." He said it was impossible to appreciate all the points of his subject, unless the natural history of infection was to some extent understood. The subject of immunity was a highly technical one, and explained why in certain specific diseases a second attack was improbable, and why in a number of children exposed to infection only a certain number

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