

Matron was "neither qualified nor certified," (2) and that the district nurse had had only 12 months' training in the Cottage Hospital. Yet, with the assurance of ignorance, these nurses took upon themselves the responsibility of treating a child who had been severely scalded, from January 28th to January 30th. A fully trained nurse would at once have realized the danger of shock—always a very grave one in serious cases of burns and scalds—and would have sent for a doctor on arrival at the case and while rendering first aid. The case is an object lesson in the necessity for the establishment and enforcement of adequate standards of nursing education.

Lord Cawley has contributed £10,000 to Ancoats Hospital, Manchester, to erect a Nurses' Home in memory of his three sons killed in the war.

LUNACY STIGMA TO BE REMOVED.

At a conference of asylum authorities at the Guildhall recently strong objection was taken to the use of such words as "lunatic," "lunacy," "asylum," and "pauper" in the lunacy law. It was resolved to press for the deletion of the words objected to, and for a drastic reform of the lunacy law generally. Mr. Morgan Thomas, of Cardiff, who presided, emphasized the importance of special mental hospitals being established by local authorities for the treatment of incipient cases without applying the term "lunacy." A resolution in that sense was adopted, and it was resolved to form a National Council of the governing authorities of all institutions, public and private, for the treatment of the mentally afflicted in England and Wales.

PRACTICAL POINTS.

Some time ago a writer in the *Lancet* advanced the opinion that a warm night cap assists in producing sleep. Soldiers have found the knitted helmet most soothing and sleep-promoting. Our grandfathers' and grandmothers' night-caps were worn because they found them an aid to sleep; and they not only kept the head warm but shut out external sounds and light that interfered with repose.

We remember in our youth seeing "Papa" in a comfy red flannel cap, and "Mama" in a very becoming frilly muslin one. For ourselves we advise a Shetland "cloud," thrown lightly over the head and ears. It is a real joy where comfort in bed is concerned. We sometimes wonder if an excess of oxygen is quite fair on the heart during sleep, or why should animals evade it and birds tuck their heads under their wings?

PRITHEE ! NO MORE "WAIT AND SEE."

Once again private members of Parliament are to be deprived of their privilege of bringing in Bills. Mr. Bonar Law moved in the House on the 12th inst., "that until the House otherwise determines, and so far as the House does not otherwise determine, no Public Bills other than Government Bills be introduced and no Ballot be taken for determining the precedence of such Bills."

This, we are pleased to note, was opposed by Mr. Adamson, leader of the Labour Party.

Sir Donald Maclean suggested the resolution should be amended by the deletion of the words "until the House otherwise determines," and the substitution of the words "until March 31st."

Mr. Bonar Law at once agreed to the latter suggestion, reminding the House that he had already expressed a hope that by March 31st it might be possible to relax the restriction of private members' opportunities.

The motion, so amended as to restrict its operation until March 31st, was then agreed to.

This means that there is no possibility of bringing in the Nurses' Registration Bills until after that date.

We note, however, that the Government proposes to alter the present procedure of the House of Commons the reason for much of which is now obsolete, so that the rules degenerate into obstruction. The chief change the Government proposes is, that many more Bills than heretofore are to be sent to Standing Committees, and that there must be more and smaller Committees. Enthusiastic new members will, let us hope, soon define methods of procedure by which the nation's business can be accomplished, instead of being tied up in knots, as the Nurses' Registration Bill has been for the past fourteen years.

Failing time for private members in which to inaugurate urgent reforms, let them "ginger up" the Government and insist upon it doing its duty. Prithree, no more "wait and see."

MINISTRY OF HEALTH BILL INTRODUCED.

Dr. Addison, President of the Local Government Board, in the House of Commons on Monday, presented a Bill to establish a Ministry of Health and a Board of Health to exercise in England and Wales, and in Scotland, respectively, powers with respect to health and local government. This Bill is now in print, and can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W. 1; 37, Peter Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrews Crescent, Cardiff; 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; and 116, Grafton Street, Dublin. Public health nurses should study this Bill.

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