

possible way to be certain she was free from infection. Why not also examine the throats of every patient admitted to the hospital, before discharging them as cured?

We are entirely in sympathy with Dr. Thompson and the Committee of the Tyrone County Infirmary, who recently passed a resolution that regulations *re* the training of nurses passed by the Local Government Board are too drastic. It seems that the Irish Local Government Board have instituted a regulation that a trained nurse must have been trained in a hospital of 140 beds, and having a resident qualified surgeon and a visiting staff of four surgeon physicians. Tyrone County Hospital contains 76 beds, and the nurses receive excellent experience, as there are no medical students, who in hospitals with medical schools attached, do much of the dressing and theatre work done by nurses at Tyrone.

The resolution adopted strongly urged the Local Government Board to reconsider their rules, which militate against the interests of the institution, and other institutions of a similar kind.

If the theoretical teaching is up to date, a nurse can be well trained in a general hospital of 76 beds.

Miss Emily O'Neill, Vice-President of the Irish Nurses' Union, writes to the Press to complain that the Executive Committee of the "Nurses' Tribute Fund" for Ireland have decided that midwives are not eligible to benefit from the funds. Miss O'Neill writes:—

"Speaking as a 'general trained' and midwifery nurse, I certainly think that the midwifery nurse who sticks consistently to her work is far more likely to break down and need help than her 'general trained' sister. It is only in very exceptional cases that a 'general trained' nurse is asked to do more than a twelve-hour day, but in accordance with an old time-honoured custom, the twenty-four hour day is still the midwife's lot, and it is well known that many nurses who practise midwifery only, work month after month without a single night's unbroken rest. Well—in future, if any of these nurses break down from overstrain, they must not expect help from the largest benevolent fund for nurses in Ireland. They have been out-ruled by the committee."

But the whole point in our opinion is that midwives are not necessarily nurses, and that the Fund was raised to help certificated trained nurses. Thus, should a trained nurse hold a midwifery qualification, she is eligible for help. Would that both trained nurses and midwives were paid sufficient salaries for their valuable

and arduous work. They would then be free from carking anxiety, and able to provide for sickness and old age. This is surely one of the objects of the Irish Nurses' Trade Union.

Nurses helping to stamp out venereal disease will be glad to know of the *Social Hygiene Bulletin*, the organ of the American Social Hygiene Association. It is full of most useful information gathered from around the globe. We all agree with the following expression of editorial opinion: "In justice to the thousands of blind babies, whose condition is due to gonorrhoeal infections of their parents, in fairness to the many persons who are innocently and accidentally infected, in consideration of the multitude of congenital syphilitic cases, these diseases, syphilis and gonorrhoea, should be thought of, spoken of, and written of, as other diseases are. They should not be placed in a separate class, and thus unduly penalise innocent victims."

The Parliament of the Union of South Africa has adopted a comprehensive Bill known as the Public Health Act, 1919. Compulsory treatment of all cases of venereal disease is provided, and any person who infects another knowingly is declared guilty of an offence.

Canada has constituted the Canadian National Council for Combating Venereal Disease.

The new Senate Bill, U.S.A., creating a national department of Public Health, provides for such a department under direction of a secretary, who shall be a member of the cabinet, and for three assistant secretaries, the first to be a man trained in medical science, public health and sanitation; the second to be an expert in vital statistics; and the third to be a woman trained in medicine or nursing and public health.

The Social Hygiene Bulletin, published monthly, price 50 cents annually, can be obtained from 105, West 40th Street, New York City, U.S.A.

TRUE TALES WITH A MORAL.

Lady (distributing handbills on Nurses' Trade Union Meeting to Sister coming out of hospital)
"Do take this and come to the meeting."

Sister (reading top line) "Wake up Nurses: Wake up, indeed; why we've hardly time to go to sleep!"

Nurse (taking bill): "What are you going to get for us—shorter hours and higher pay?"

Lady: "Come to the meeting and help to get reforms for yourself."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)