

from every point of view it is better for the people to contribute according to their means.

The care of the sick poor in many workhouse infirmaries reaches a very high standard, and brings relief and comfort to thousands. There is no section on whom the loving care they receive is better bestowed than on the small children, and the brightness, cleanliness, and order of a well kept children's ward results in the saving of many lives. The accompanying picture of Sister Combs, Sister of the Children's Ward at the Chelsea Infirmary, will show why the babies flourish, and regain their health in her skilled and tender hands.

An interesting correspondence on "Reconstruction in the Nursing Profession" is proceeding in *Time and Tide*, opened by Miss Jessie Holmes. Miss Gladys M. E. Leigh says, in advocating shorter hours of work: "You cannot exploit one section of the community for the benefit of another. . . . We hear continually of the wonderful work accomplished in our hospitals as the result of our voluntary system, but when we ask what

has been done for the women who by their service made this system possible, we are told that broken in health, exhausted by interminable hours, starved by existing economic conditions, they are cast aside, a burden to the tax-payer or a charge to the charity of a relative, once their working-life is done.

"Is it fair, is it just, is it even decent, that the women who were the veritable pioneers of the feminist movement, who broke down the prejudice of the Victorian era, who made

possible for the professional women of to-day their wide heritage, their liberty and their freedom, should receive so grievous a recompense from the hands of their country?"

Miss Rimmer, National Union of Trained Nurses, writes:—"Nurses are charged, rightly or wrongly, with many sins, but, for the honour of the nurses, it is only fair to state that the charge of neglecting a patient in essentials is seldom one. I do not for one moment fear that a 48-hour week will inconvenience the patient or lessen the chances of recovery: it is the relations, friends and the servants who may be inconvenienced."

Miss F. A. Sheldon, of Guy's Hospital Trained Nurses' Institution, agrees with Miss Holmes that: "Personality and vitality play a tremendous part in a nurse's equipment, and this is immensely true of the private nurse, for she is practically isolated with her patient, and must be the perennial source of strength and sympathy. Her hours on duty are far too long, and the strain ages a woman before her time. Wise legislation would greatly benefit this branch of the profession."



HOW THE BABIES ARE CARED FOR
AT CHELSEA INFIRMARY.

Complaints have been made that irate parents, if annoyed, rush off and use abusive language to teachers on L.C.C. school premises, upset the work, and it is suggested that such conduct should be made a punishable offence.

These scenes are usually the result of the cleansing order. Children from certain homes come with dirty heads. Mothers are remonstrated with by the School Nurse. Hence these tears!

It is wrong that clean children should run

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