

ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL.**THE VENEREAL DISEASES DEPARTMENT.**

It is only within recent years that instruction in the manifestations and nursing care of the venereal diseases has been given to probationers, although during their training they have nursed cases of these diseases. The organisation of special departments for their treatment, with modern scientific appliances and in charge of trained nurses, is also of recent origin. Such a department is now in full working order at St. Thomas' Hospital, to the great benefit of hundreds of men and women.

The department has a separate entrance, and is admirably arranged. It is open each evening from 8 to 10 o'clock, or longer, as this has been found the most convenient time for the patients to attend. On admission the women are given facilities for cleansing themselves, bidets being provided for this purpose. They then proceed to cubicles furnished with special tables, and everything requisite for the use of the medical practitioner. On the far side is a glass table, where hypodermic needles are sterilised, injections prepared, and testing carried on. There is also the necessary provision for irrigations, swabbing, sterilisation of dressings, &c. The department is in charge of a sister, and all the nurses working there are certificated; they wear special caps entirely covering their hair, and rubber gloves.

Beds are provided in a special ward for cases which it is desirable should be admitted, and there is also an ante-natal home where expectant mothers are received, and where their infants are sometimes born. It is good to see these diseases brought under treatment, both for the benefit of the individual, and also of the race. The policy of hush is at a discount, and the unfortunate sufferers from these terrible diseases can come to hospitals in the ordinary way knowing that they will receive the best skilled treatment and nursing care, and that their confidences will be respected. That they do come in large numbers is the best indication that they realise these facts, and affords the greatest hope of the eventual elimination of the most terrible of all the infectious diseases.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

A Cabinet Minister lately was addressing a meeting on the subject of "Unemployment." At question time, Miss MacCallum, of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, who happened to be one of the audience, rose and asked him if he would do everything in his power to oppose the inclusion of Nurses in the Unemployment Insurance Act, as they were entirely averse to it.

He was heartily cheered when he replied that if she would send him particulars, he would be very happy to do all he could to help her. He was supplied with full information.

SCOTTISH NURSES' ACTIVITIES.**SCOTTISH NURSES' CLUB.**

It was soon found that the premises of the Club at 205, Bath Street, Glasgow, needed more bedroom accommodation, and the members are doing their part to provide funds to extend it. The sale in October enabled them to hand over £200 for this purpose out of the proceeds of £426. A recent concert has brought in £20, and an autumn sale on a large scale is already planned, and Scottish people are real wizards in making splendid returns on bazaars. The Club is becoming more and more the recognised centre for professional meetings, lectures and entertainments, and all diversity of opinion may find publicity there. The Professional Union of Trained Nurses held a Committee meeting at the Club on Tuesday, and the Scottish National Association of Women Health Visitors, Women Sanitary Inspectors and School Nurses will be addressed there on "Luxury and Death," a lantern lecture by Dr. J. McGregor Robertson, on February 25th.

THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Scottish Nurses' Association will be at Home in the Charing Cross Halls, Glasgow, on February 24th. Dancing and whist from 7.30 p.m. to 1.30 a.m. Uniform is optional, and tickets 10s.

HOME FOR AGED NURSES.

In aid of the "Glasgow King Edward Memorial Home for Retired Nurses" a sale will be held at the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, on April 16th. Similar Homes have been founded in Edinburgh and London, and the help of willing workers is invited to make the Glasgow Home a success. Miss J. S. Rodger, the Matron, will receive contributions for the stalls of work, produce, flowers, sweets, &c.

TO PASTURES NEW.

Some of the most experienced Senior Sisters in Scottish Training Schools are leaving this spring for the Dominions and United States. Their departure will be a great loss, but it is felt that there is so little chance of further advancement in their hospitals, and that now is the time to make a move for their own betterment, as it is so easy to settle down, and grow too old to move with chance of promotion. The constant strain of hard work and training younger nurses who go ahead and get on in the world, leaving their tired Sisters to continue the same circle gets very disheartening in time, so one cannot blame the desire for change of work and environment to brighter prospects. Moreover, as we pass on a new generation of nurses slip into our shoes and shoulder the burden in their turn. It is the law of Nature.

The Special Committee appointed by the Islington Guardians to investigate statements made by Miss Walmsley, an Inspector of the Ministry of Health, concerning the nursing in their Infirmary in an official Report, are presenting their Report to the Guardians on Friday, February 11th.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)