

positive realisation of the fact that upon these properly prepared health educators will depend the salvation of communities, and that only through education in the principles of health and right living can we hope to produce healthy people. It has become more and more apparent to the medical and nursing professions, as well as to the general public, that the final test of the efficiency of such health work is not only how it handles the case which it received into its care, but what impression it makes directly or indirectly upon the whole sum of sickness and suffering in the community. From this broad social point of view the work of a community nurse can under certain circumstances be a total failure as to net educational results, while at the same time it is very efficient in the details of its immediate work, namely, the care and cure of the sick. Take for example the patient whose illness is due to insanitary housing conditions and improper feeding. The patient receives excellent care, while ill, from the nurse, and is discharged as cured, but continues to live in the same unhealthy conditions of ignorance. In a short time the individual becomes ill a second time. This is where the work fails to function to its greatest capacity in that it falls short of being a real and lasting service to society. It should not only cure, but preserve through education the health which it has given back to the individual. It is not only the immediate cure of the sick person that the nurse should strive to accomplish, but also the ultimate social result, that of reconstructing, by means of education in the principles of right living, the entire family into a healthy, contented, enlightened group.

"The influence of a community nurse is far-reaching—she functions as the nurse, in many instances social service worker, comforter in time of distress; in fact, there is scarcely a capacity in which she is not required to serve. In other words, she is a friend to all people at all times. The community nurse cares for the sick, protects the well, and teaches the principles of good health to all. . . . The work of the community nurse is one of the most wonderful branches of public health nursing."

NURSES KNOW ITS HORRORS.

The United States, Japan, Britain, France, and Italy at Washington adopted Mr. Root's resolution, barring the use of deadly gases in warfare.

Later, all the nations of the world will be asked to subscribe to the resolution.

This most cowardly method of attack was, of course, "made in Germany."

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

There will be a Meeting of the National Council of Nurses on Friday, February 3rd, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., to consider the appointment of Delegates to attend a Meeting of the International Council of Nurses which the Danish Council of Nurses proposes to convene at Copenhagen towards the end of May.

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE DR. LOMAX'S CHARGES.

The Minister of Health has appointed a Committee, consisting of Sir Cyril Cobb (chairman), Dr. R. P. Smith, and Dr. Bedford Pierce, with Mr. P. Barter, of the Ministry of Health, as secretary,

"To investigate and report on the charges made by Dr. Lomax in his book ('The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor'), and to make recommendations as to any medical or administrative improvements which may be necessary and practicable in respect of the matters referred to by Dr. Lomax without amendment of the existing Lunacy Laws."

Sir Cyril Cobb, M.P., the chairman, was chairman of the L.C.C. in 1913-14, and is a barrister.

Dr. Robert Percy Smith, of Queen Anne Street, W., is an authority on mental disorders, being consulting physician for these complaints at St. Thomas's Hospital. He formerly acted in a similar capacity at Charing Cross Hospital, and is the joint author of "The Insane and the Law."

Dr. Bedford Pierce, medical superintendent of The Retreat, York, was president of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1919-20.

We are of opinion that at least one woman should be added to this Committee.

CENTRAL POOR LAW CONFERENCE.

The Central Poor-Law Conference will this year be held at the Guildhall on February 14th. It will be opened by the Lord Mayor, and will be attended by Delegates from all parts of England. Sir Alfred Mond, Bart., P.C., M.P., Minister of Health, has promised to speak on the opening day. Amongst the papers to be presented on the following day (February 15th) is one by Mrs. Eustace H. Lipscomb (St. Albans) on "The Use of Poor-Law Hospitals and the Training of Nurses," which is sure to arouse discussion.

The Duke of Devonshire will preside.

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