

fellow-workers treated—with gross injustice ; if she is placed under the absolute autocratic power of one official, and it is ground into her that her future career is dependent upon the caprice of that official, servility and fear, not loyalty and honour, are developed. It becomes the one aim of the Nurse to get her Certificate, and escape from the thralldom, and then, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the freed bond-servant is never tired of telling of the tyranny she has passed through, and the reputation of the Institution suffers irreparable harm. The first rule, then, is obvious. If Nurses are to be made loyal to their Hospital, they must be treated with justice and consideration.

CRIME IN CHILDREN.

To what influence must we ascribe the instances of juvenile cruelty, cunning, and ferocity with which we are so frequently regaled in the daily papers, and which have culminated in the account of the absolutely fiendish action of two infants, who drowned a comrade, with most hideous callousness, for the sake of his clothes? We have a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Shall we require a second for the Prevention of the Cruelty and Crime of Children? Is it, as some say, our more advanced education that has developed a more advanced type of juvenile depravity than the old-fashioned pot-hooks and hangers evolved? Such was certainly the opinion of an intelligent detective, when interviewed on the subject, *apropos* of a youth not quite fifteen, who was "wanted" for two embezzlements and three forgeries. His parents wept when he was arrested. Such a good boy; such a clever boy; always first at school; he never gave them a moment's uneasiness. That lad was undoubtedly a victim to the spurious so-called education that crams children with facts and figures, and neglects the moral training, which is the foundation of good citizenship. The lessons a child learns from its school-books are scarcely worth consideration when compared with the effect of the influence of its daily surroundings. Surely, therefore, there must be something very faulty and rotten in a society that can show two young animals who, after living in its midst, and enjoying all the benefits of its boasted nineteenth century education for eight and ten years respectively, can be guilty of such a ghastly morning's work, and retail it without shame or fear, as a not unnatural deed? It is to the force of example we must look for an explanation. Not a day passes but we read some account of cruelty, practised often upon children far too young to understand its meaning, and continued as they grow older, teaching them to be cunning and brutal, indifferent as to the pain they inflict on others, brutally retaliating on those weaker than themselves the injustice and ill-treatment they have had to suffer from others. For children are not naturally pitiful; like all other young animals they are inclined to be

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indifferent to all suffering but their own. Only as they grow older, training may awaken the faculty of compassion, a complex emotion unknown to lower and unreasoning beings.

THE NOBLE RIVER THAMES.

NO wonder the unsanitary condition of the Thames is giving rise to a "good deal of discussion" in the neighbourhood of Woolwich, Plumstead, and Erith, if it is a fact that a man who fell into the river about there, and who was fished out dead, was proved to have been "rather poisoned than drowned" by the polluted water. It is gratifying to learn, pending more energetic measures, that a general opinion prevails in those districts that the London County Council ought to "do something" in the matter. Certainly, if it diverts away from the river the six hundred thousand tons of sewage that are daily discharged into the Thames, turning our noble water-way into a common sewer, it will have rivalled Hercules in his famous stable cleaning exploit. The chief wonder seems to be that any of the inhabitants of Woolwich, Plumstead, and Erith should be left alive to petition against the nuisance.

WATER AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.

MANY Nurses have seen weak tea injected instead of morphia in the case of patients with whom it was thought desirable to discontinue its use without their knowledge, and know how soundly patients will sleep after such an injection! But from Berlin comes an account of a still more curious experiment, in which water injected under the skin produced as complete anæsthesia as cocaine, so that small operations could be performed without the patients suffering pain. Hospital authorities will, no doubt, be only too glad to hear of the discovery, because cocaine is notoriously costly, and water has, at least, the merit of being cheap.

COULEUR DE ROSE.

A CORRESPONDENT who applied to the London Hospital for the Regulations for the admission of Probationers, was somewhat surprised to receive, together with this official information, various little coloured slips which proved to be advertisements of books of which the Matron was the authoress. Our correspondent sends us a *couleur de rose* slip, which recalls the statement recently made by Sir Edmund Hay Currie, as to the particular tint of all things at the London Hospital. Our correspondent seems surprised that officials are allowed to advertise their publications thus officially, and presumably at the expense of the Hospital. But she is clearly unaware of the commercial spirit that dominates this Charity, which last year sweated a net profit of £1,377 out of its Private Nurses, and spent thousands over bricks and mortar, yet pleads poverty when longer holidays for its overworked Nurses are asked for, and even makes these women pay for all their washing out of their scanty pittance. No one aware of these and other strange facts will be surprised to hear of the latest instance of commercial enterprise at the London Hospital.

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