

exaggerated estimation of these gifts. Occasionally one may find the youngest suffering from the feeling of being unwanted. Such a feeling generally springs from some foundation of reality, which all will realise as a serious handicap to a happy and successful life, and which cannot do otherwise than cripple the individual's powers and capabilities unless an ambition to make good in spite of difficulties be present in a very high degree.

In reviewing these brief sketches of the main characteristics of each child in the family, we must not lose sight of the fact that each member of the family entertains characteristic feelings concerning the others, and that parents may also regard the eldest as a disturber of their peace and pleasure; especially does this affect the father, to whom the baby is a serious rival where his wife's time, affection and attention are concerned. In our survey of the infant and its love-objects, we see the model upon which the later repetitions are based. School-teachers will form the second series, those in authority over us when training for a career and later a marriage-partner the third and fourth. The turning from the original love-object, or the absence of this step, will be of equal significance in the development of character, and play an important part in determining the reactions shown in the career.

In Hospital, all these repetitions are to be found again and again upon every side. We have already likened the hospital to a Matriarchal institution, in which the mother holds absolute sway, and her subordinates render obedience or opposition, as they did to those who formerly filled the mother-role. The ward-sisters may also represent mothers, or much older sisters; the doctors, fathers; the newly-joined probationers are the youngest in the large family, and in between are numerous "middle ones." The attitude of the probationer towards the others, her love, hatred, jealousy or suspicion, kindness and helpfulness will be modelled upon the old plan, and not her reactions only, the family repetition are going on upon all sides, all unknown to themselves, are fitting others into this pattern of the past and behaving towards them accordingly. The nurse regards the Matron as her Mother, and the Matron beholds in the nurse her daughter, a representative of the coming generation, and behaves towards her after the fashion of her own early wishes and repressions. But many of the problems arising from these questions belong to the next section, The Nurse and the Staff.

## THE NATIONAL HEALTH.

### BRITISH SOCIAL HYGIENE COUNCIL.

The British Social Hygiene Council is the name by which the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, 102, Dean Street, Oxford Street, W.1., will be known in future.

In 1920, 105,000 new cases presented themselves at the free treatment centres, this figure had fallen to 73,000 in 1923, the cases of syphilis alone having fallen from 42,000 in 1920 to 23,000 in 1923.

This is mainly due to efforts jointly made by the Ministry of Health, the Local Authorities and the Council to secure that the infected members of the public should seek and continue treatment at the centres, where such treatment is provided free of charge for any member of the public.

During the last eight years over four million pamphlets dealing with Venereal Diseases, their prevention and treatment, have been distributed by the Council to individual members of the general public. Over 15,000 lectures have been given and a minimum of 3,000,000 have been enlightened through the cinema film and the spoken word.

If the present efforts along these lines can be continued and extended there is every hope that syphilis and gonorrhoea will, within the lifetime of the present generation, cease to take its present heavy toll of the life and health of posterity.

## NURSING ECHOES.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught has graciously consented to open the New Nurses' Home at the London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, W., on June 10th, at 3 p.m.

All Nurses trained at this Hospital are cordially invited, and are requested to apply for tickets of admission to the Matron, on or before June 3rd next.

The Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses are at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. (opposite Selfridge's), and the Hon. Treasurer of the I.C.N., Miss Margaret Breay, will be pleased to welcome any members or delegates from the Dominions or abroad at the Office at any time, and help to make their visit to London as pleasant as possible.

The Countess of Reading, accompanied by Sister Meikle of the Indian Nursing Service, paid an informal visit to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital on Tuesday morning to see Miss Maula Baksh, a Mohammedan lady from Kashmir, who hopes, on her return to India, to work in the Lady Reading Hospital, Simla, and Miss Lavinia Mewa, from Rajputana, in the North, two Indian ladies who have completed their training as nurses at this hospital, in whom she is especially interested. The hospital undertook their training at the request, in April, 1923, of the Lady Reading Fund for the Training of Indian Women. They have now passed their Central Midwives' Board examination, after having been at the hospital for nearly eighteen months.

We have great sympathy with the following letter which appeared in *The Times* recently from "A Registered Nurse," suggesting "Flatlets" for Nurses. In spite of a thirst for freedom, what every woman really loves is a home of her own—where she can adore her own Lares and Penates. To quote:—

SIR,—In *The Times* of April 28th you published a letter signed by Mr. Austen Chamberlain and others regarding a Club for Nurses as a memorial to Princess Christian. There are several nurses' clubs in London, all of which are very excellent in their way, but they are of very little use to the "private nurse," of whom Mr. Chamberlain must have been thinking when he said, "The ordinary women's club is of little use to nurses owing to the uncertainty of their hours of employment, their alternating periods of day and night duty, and their inability to give due notice of their arrival and departure." What the working nurse, unattached to a hospital, really needs is just a corner to call her very own; only those who have to "live in their trunks," as the nurse does, can know the absolute joy of a wardrobe or a chest of drawers.

Might I therefore suggest that a large block of "flatlets" be built, and let to nurses at a small rental. These could be furnished or unfurnished, with one large central dining-room or restaurant; no other club or conference rooms would be necessary; something like the business women's "flatlets" at St. John's Wood. These are ideal, but the premium places them far beyond the means of the average nurse.

The Overseas Nursing Association, which has its Headquarters in this country at the Imperial Institute,

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