

On the other hand, the authorities engage to treat the Sisters as daughters, not as paid servants. The Sisters shall account to these gentlemen, and the latter, conscious that the Sisters cannot fulfil their obligations towards the poor or the servants without their support, will sustain the Sisters with their authority, never acquainting them with their shortcomings in public, but taking them aside in order to do so.

The Superior-General (of the Sisters of Charity) shall have the power of exchanging the Sisters when he thinks necessary. The administrators likewise are free to have any Sisters with whom they are dissatisfied replaced by others, but not without giving them a trial for a year or two. . . ."

When installing nurses at Nantes, Louise wrote to Vincent of a peculiar difficulty: "It has been the custom in this town to employ a contractor to supply food to the hospital, whose wife had been used to come and cut up the portions for the sick and distribute them as seemed good to her. I fear this will be the cause of considerable trouble and difficulty, and, I foresee, endanger the peace and union of our Sisters, all the more on account of this woman having shown dissatisfaction at their management of the meals; she has also been trying to come to a secret understanding, first with one of them, then with the other. . . . This man and his wife have been given notice to quit in three or four months . . . but I greatly fear that the complaints, disorder and want of successful treatment of the patients during that interval will leave an unfavourable impression on the minds of the people, and that our Sisters will be blamed for these faults."

THE REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH OF THE L.C.C. FOR THE YEAR 1930.

The Report of Dr. F. N. Kay Menzies, F.R.C.P.Edin., D.P.H., F.R.S.E., County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, London County Council, for the year 1930 is a most interesting document and will repay careful study. It is published by P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 14, Great Smith Street, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Price 1s. 6d.

Dr. Menzies states that "the regular work of the School Medical Service has continued uninterruptedly: a little advance here, another there, and throughout a continued and progressive development in almost every branch are to be noted. The health and physique of the London school child of to-day are infinitely better than were those of his parents; almost every year some improvement is shown in the figures relating to personal hygiene and in the nutritional index. In such a serious condition as discharging ears, marked improvement has been shown, whilst ringworm of the scalp, the bane of the pre-war school doctor, is rapidly disappearing. Even in the condition of the teeth, where an enormous amount of leeway has to be made up, the figures concerning leaving children are beginning to show a lessening of the amount of decay."

Concerning the result of a special examination of the throats of representative five-years-old children the nasopharynx was found to be normal in only 17.4 per cent.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE PRESERVATION OF THE RACE.

The question of birth control is one which is engaging the increasing attention of statesmen and the public, and in the *Sunday Dispatch* of August 16th, Signor Mussolini, a master of statecraft, gives his views on the subject. He says in part:—

"If the State is to be great and to remain great, it must have a strong and virile people ready to face the responsibilities incumbent upon them for the preservation of the race.

"As a statesman, it is fitting that I should inquire into the probable effects of some of the departures from long-established custom.

"This is a day when men and women preach the shirking of the duty of begetting sons and daughters. Strength is not built on the apathy of the sluggard, and national strength is not achieved in a life of listless ease.

"Those nations which have failed to strengthen and expand have passed away and are forgotten, while those which took up the burden with virile zeal and expanded are to-day the great models.

"There is therefore need, above all, for a well-ordered family life. This is still the basis of the State and will continue to be the basis of the State for all time.

"He who evades the duty upon him to create a family evades a responsibility akin to that which calls him to the colours in time of national danger. It is a twofold duty, imposed not alone by God and the nation, but also by the call of life."

THE CORRECTION OF THE IRREGULARITIES OF THE TEETH.

Twenty countries were represented at the second International Orthodontic Congress—to which the Minister of Health, then Mr. Arthur Greenwood, sent a cordial greeting—held recently in London, the first having been held five years ago in New York.

The President, Mr. J. H. Badcock, said that orthodontics was a science of great importance from

the social, economic and hygienic standpoints. Unsightly irregularity of the teeth might easily be the cause of an "inferiority complex," with its lifelong disadvantage to the sufferer. The presence at the Congress of practitioners from all parts of the world was a proof that orthodontics was a matter of world-wide concern, confined to no nation or clime, and the questions at once arose, "Why are irregularities of the teeth so prevalent? Were they always so?" Malocclusion of the teeth was and always had been in the past a concomitant of civilisation, and it was probably roughly correct to say that the more advanced the civilisation the greater percentage of persons affected.

The orthodontist had gone far in devising and applying methods for the correction of malocclusion, and he believed would go farther and on less empirical lines, but his ideal must ever be prevention. To achieve that he needed vision, and must look beyond the individual to the race.



Mlle. LE GRAS (THE VENERABLE LOUISE DE MARILLAC).

Foundress of the Company of Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

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