

respect, and much was being done in a number of directions to raise the standards of employment in the nursing service.

The Minister no power over Voluntary Hospitals.

The Minister had, of course, no power over voluntary hospitals, and he had no statutory powers to regulate the hours of local authorities' employees, since in accordance with the general principle of local government in this country Parliament has given the local authorities discretion in the conduct of their services so that the varying local problems could be met. Rigid regulation of hours was not always possible, *e.g.* in small hospitals or in dealing with emergency cases.

Sir George Chrystal promised that he would convey the suggestions of the deputation to the Minister of Health.

RAVAGES OF RHEUMATISM.

An appeal for more effective machinery to combat rheumatism, providing clinics controlled by local authorities and maintained by the State, was made at the annual meeting in London of the Approved Society of the National Union of Railwaymen.

Mr. J. Henderson, M.P., presiding, said there was not a single hospital or spa owned by the State for remedying the malady, while foreign Governments were spending millions of pounds in research work to combat the disease.

A resolution was adopted, declaring that the ravages of rheumatism could only be successfully met by the setting up of suitable clinics under the control of the local authorities throughout the country and maintained by the State.

In the meanwhile the fine work being carried on by the British Red Cross Society in the treatment of rheumatism is invaluable.

STOP THAT SARCASM—WRONG TREATMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

BY A MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGIST.

Sarcasm is one of the most harmful forms of correction that can be employed against a child. Where the child is sensitive, a sarcastic cruel remark may leave a hurt that will endure for years, and even through life.

Children can be exasperating at times, and it is often tempting for harassed parents and teachers to combat obstinacy or stupidity with sarcasm. But the adult must be ever on guard against giving a mental hurt which may produce a sense of inferiority that may later become a stubborn complex.

Among the young patients who come for treatment to the Institute of Medical Psychology are many who have developed an anti-social attitude simply through a feeling of inferiority induced by sarcastic scolding at a psychologically tender age.

A schoolmaster, honestly anxious to improve the slowness of one of his pupils, held the lad up to ridicule before the whole class by reading aloud the wrong answers he had given in an examination. The boy is now on the threshold of manhood, intelligent and keen. But the whole of his progress is being handicapped by acute shyness and a feeling of not being the equal of others—all due to that classroom incident when he was twelve years old.

After weeks of treatment, one of the Institute's doctors is beginning to dissolve the young man's complex by showing him its origin and so giving him a new confidence in himself. But it is slow work. That moment of thoughtless sarcasm in his school days has caused an injury that may yet take months to heal.

COURTESY A JEWEL.

White-haired old clergyman, mystified as to exit from hospital, to sprightly young nurse passing in corridor:

"How do you get out of this hospital?"

"Well! I usually walk out, but you can please yourself!"

THE OVERSEAS NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The report of the Overseas Nursing Association, established "for providing Trained Nurses for Hospital and Private Work in the British Colonies and among other British Communities abroad" is always interesting, and in the 40th annual report just issued, the record of good work is still maintained. The President is the Earl of Athlone, K.G., and the Secretary Lady Antrobus, D.B.E., and the Headquarters of the Association are at the Imperial Institute, London, S.W.7. The President of the Scottish Branch is the Viscountess Novar, G.B.E., R.R.C., and the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer Miss E. M. Manson, 10, Kingsburgh Road, Edinburgh. The number of nurses serving in the year 1935-36 was 698, of whom 139 were under Local Associations and in appointments not under Government, and 559 in appointments under Government.

As usual, the nurses have sent to the Committee very interesting reports.

From the Falkland Islands a nurse wrote:

"I once had to go 90 miles in a very small steamer and a very large snowstorm to fetch a patient with peritonitis into the Hospital. The steamer had not been used for over a year, the crew was very scratch, but we managed to get there in fifteen hours. Coming back, the storm had abated, a sail was put up to steady the ship and we got the patient back in eight hours; she fortunately was only sick once, later she was operated on and made a very good recovery."

Another nurse wrote from Palestine:

"It is a very busy life out here, every year more centres are opened in towns and villages which need constant supervision. The Arabs always give me a warm welcome in their homes, even if one has to find fault with their methods of clothing and feeding and spoiling their children. I drive long distances; if ever anything goes wrong with my car, the Arab chauffeurs are true knights of the road, I hardly ever stop without kind help and they never accept a tip. One day I had two tyres punctured and was struggling with them when an Arab bus drew up and the driver did it all for me. There were remonstrances from the passengers within, as it was Ramadan and nearly sunset and time to break their fast. A few days later I was visiting with a midwife in the town. A mother said did I remember the bus driver who had helped me on the road. It was her husband, who had told his wife "The Sit helps us with our children, must not we help her when in difficulties on the road?"

From China a nurse wrote:

"The patients on the maternity corridor are mostly British and American and the wealthier Chinese, but we have a few Germans and Russians. I like the Chinese immensely, they are very interesting and fascinating and their babies are perfectly sweet with their round black heads and wee slanting eyes. We like the Chinese nurses very much. They are very well trained and speak and write English splendidly and are blessed with wonderful memories."

The Committee record the great loss suffered by the Association in the death of Lord Amptill, who had been a Trustee for the past six years. The names of Lord and Lady Amptill have been closely linked with the Association from its early days, as Lady Amptill was Hon. Secretary in 1900 and Lord Amptill President from 1906 to 1914. Lady Amptill continues to support the Association as a member of the Council.

TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

Old lady, placing penny in hat of itinerant musician, with one leg: "Dear, dear, how sad to have lost a leg!" "The truth is marm, the loss of that old leg is me living, no work so long as I had two. Don't forget as every twentieth person in this here metropolis is a furriner."

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