

sionary merely. The medical inspector should give her orders for the *definite application of treatment* in many of the school cases, as we all know that the actual cleansing and application of medicaments and bandages does the work in a short time, where prescriptions followed by the mother's futile attempts leave the child for weeks uncured of some simple ailment. We cordially agree that the nurse should not diagnose or prescribe; nevertheless, we are inclined to think—sub-rosa and with modesty—that the nurse who cannot learn to tell a ring-worm when she sees it, except in a rare instance, would hardly know a little woolly dog if it came in her way.

The London School Board is also conducting a thorough examination of the eyesight of the pupils, with the result of finding serious defects of vision in about eight per cent. of boys and eleven of girls. Another excellent piece of work of the London School Board is the recently undertaken one of securing from the Parks Commission sites on parks and open spaces which may be used for convalescent homes for children.

School inspection by medical officers is carried on in a number of German, French, Belgian, and Swiss towns; none, however, have yet added the school nurse.

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#### LETTERS

##### ANOTHER WORD FROM MRS. TSILKA

MRS. TSILKA writes to Miss Maxwell, from Kortcha:

"My adventures with the brigands were so very dreadful—very fearful; but, thank God! that is all past, and to-day I am sitting down in a very bright, cheerful room, with my husband playing with Ellenchin, and I comfortably writing this. You know, sometimes it seems so hard for anybody to live in this country that many times we have been about ready to run to America. This autumn some money was sent us from America to build a dormitory for the girls. The necessary permit for the building was obtained. Afterwards, when about half through, the government stopped us. All the material was left exposed to the weather. It was done just to give us trouble, for the government does not want improvements. Besides that, the Greek Catholic Bishop persecuted us; they do not wish to see Protestantism triumph. Besides these troubles, brigands are all around us, and I can't help shiver at any gunshot in the night. If we ever come to America, it won't be until next summer. I am afraid to expose my darling to any more dangers."

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#### ITEMS

THE last report of the League of St. John's House Nurses, London, contains several items of general interest, viz.:

"Though yet in its early youth, the league has done some good work. The self-instruction scheme suggested by one of the members has been responded to, the subjects chosen being botany, literature, and French. French evidently has the preference, as so many nurses have felt the need of a knowledge of it in private nursing, not only abroad, but also often at home.

"Three very good collections of flowers were sent in for inspection by members of the botany group.

"The magazine published half-yearly under the title of *St. John's House*

*News* is much appreciated, and has already travelled to all four quarters of the globe.

"A small sum has been set aside as a nucleus for a Delegate Fund, and a small annual subscription has been voted to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. The league now numbers ninety-five members."

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A LETTER in the *British Journal of Nursing* gives a pleasant picture of our Australian sisters' doings:

"Last week the matron and nursing staff of our City Hospital gave an 'At Home' in commemoration of the completion of the Nightingale wing, which is the nurses' home of the Sydney Hospital. There were about five hundred present, and we had a most enjoyable evening admiring the house, which is open to inspection. On the ground-floor are three dining-rooms, all opening into each other, furnished with small tables, at which the staff sit according to rank—sisters, head nurses, second nurses, assistant nurses, and probationers. Then there are the kitchens, servants' hall, store-room, linen-sorting room, etc. Then upstairs the matron's office, dining-room, and sitting-room. The last mentioned is one of the 'completion' rooms, and has a lovely balcony overlooking the Domain Park and the harbor. This balcony and two above it are a great boon to the home, for in the summer nurses can spend the evenings on them, and enjoy the lovely view over the Domain, the Botanical Gardens, and away to the South Head."

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THE nurses of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital in Dublin have established a very charming precedent which others may well follow.

In honor of Miss Margaret Huxley, their matron, who lately gave up her position after eighteen-years' service in the hospital, the nurses have contributed a sum of money, the income of which is to be used for a gold medal, to be called "The Margaret Huxley Prize," and to be given biennially to the best nurse trained in the hospital, this being decided by (1) marks given by the matron for the time being in conduct and general nursing ability, together with (2) the marks obtained in the theoretical examinations.

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THE Royal British Nurses' Association during the past two years has been raising money for its projected home for nurses. No doubt many of its members in this country are interested. The *Journal* says:

"It is very evident that the housing problem of the day presses very heavily on ladies living alone on small means. The cost of lodgings is high and is always increasing. There is often grave difficulty in finding any suitable rooms at all, and the privations endured by those who are compelled to spend more than half their income on cramped and inconvenient quarters point to the urgent need for making provision to meet their requirements.

"Many members of the Royal British Nurses' Association have long recognized the desirability of providing special quarters in which nurses retired from work may spend the rest of their lives in comfort. Accordingly a vigorous effort is now being made to erect a settlement in which members disabled in the pursuit of their calling and in old age may have the comforts and freedom from outside worries they desire.

"It is proposed to accommodate, in the first instance, twenty nurses. Each nurse's quarters will be entirely self-contained, and will be so arranged that

she may live, should she desire it, in complete independence of others. The rooms will open on to corridors (warmed and lighted), with bath-rooms (hot and cold water) and lavatories on each floor.

"A common club-room, well stocked with books and papers, will be available for the recreation of such as desire to use it.

"Each lady will have her own furniture, and the rooms will be fitted with such modern appliances as may conduce to the convenience of the occupants, separate larder and store-room accommodation being provided for each.

"One or two small rooms will be available for friends of the residents in case of any illness requiring extra attendance."



DR. LEDERLE's account of the school-nurse undertaking in a talk to the public in the Charity Organization Building:

"As one instance of the stimulus which comes to us from workers outside the department, take the work of the Nurses' Settlement. When the Health Department began this autumn to carry out honestly the rules regarding the medical inspection of schools, we found that we were turning out children at the rate of about two thousand a week for various minor complaints more or less contagious in character. What to do with the children was then the question. We had no means of instructing their parents as to the care they needed, and yet without such instruction they might lose considerable schooling before they were cleaned or well enough to return. I then remembered a talk I had had with my friend, the head-worker in the Nurses' Settlement, who had told me of the work of school nurses in London. I found a little money available and persuaded Miss Wald to release one of her workers for a short time. In twenty school days this nurse had treated eight hundred and twenty-five cases among children and had insured the return to school of nearly all. Many of them might otherwise be out of school yet. I hope you will not tell the Civil Service Commission this, because I engaged the nurse without asking its consent, and I have been bold enough to make an appeal to the Mayor for financial support in an effort to employ at least six nurses. That was all I dared to ask for at present, but I should like twenty, and I should be able to find work for them all. I do not think the Mayor and the Board of Estimate will refuse our request. If they do, it will be the first time since January 1 that the Health Department has presented in vain the needs of the people for whom it is working."

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At a recent conference of the Oranges the subject considered was, "How may Institutions and Churches be Helpful in the Solution of the Tuberculosis Problem?" Dr. S. A. Knopf, of New York, gave the principal address. Miss Belle Ogden McKee read the report of the Civic Sanitation Association for the past year, which told of house-to-house inspection and educational work in the tenement districts of the Oranges. Three hundred and seventy-seven premises were visited, and one-half of these were inspections of plumbing, draining, and housing conditions. One resident of the tenement-house district said to the inspector six weeks after her arrival, "We are waiting for you on this street. The girls in the factory where I work have heard about you and are anxious to help the work."