

suggestions of a teacher that her child was improperly clothed and fed, will take without offence the same suggestion made by the nurse who happens to be in her home. The very fact of sickness, and the consequent need of the nurse, tends to make her receptive, and the nurse's opinion carries weight because of her profession.

A nurse possessing tact and an understanding of the needs of the household, especially if to this be added some practical experience in the care of a home, might make almost any suggestions as to the care of the house, and the preparation of food, and general conditions of health without seeming in any way to intrude or to be officious. She will be regarded as the expert who has a right to be heard in these matters. In the many cases where the illness is not serious enough to absorb all the energy and time of the nurse this help could well be given. It is perhaps adding another burden of responsibility, but it affords opportunity for a distinct social service.

For even the most superficial observer can hardly fail to see that there are to-day many forces working to disintegrate the home; that it is losing its hold upon the children; that it is in need of help.

Anything, however little, that will tend to arouse it to its duty, and help it better to fulfil its obligations, will confer a benefit upon society.

(To be continued.)

SCHOOL-NURSE EXPERIMENT IN NEW YORK

By L. L. DOCK

THE Nurses' Settlement of New York is at present conducting the experiment—in coöperation with the Board of Health and the Board of Education—of introducing a trained nurse into the public school system to work in conjunction with the medical inspector of the Health Board who inspects and excludes cases of infectious troubles among the children. This work of the "school nurse" has been carried on successfully for some time in England, and has been written of fully in *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*. Miss Honnor Morten's account of how she established this system in the London board schools appeared in the January, 1901, number, and since then items from the English journals showing the extension of the work of several District Nurses' Associations to similar service in the schools of other places have appeared in the Foreign Department of the *JOURNAL*.

Miss Wald, the head of the Nurses' Settlement, has always cherished

the hope that the trained nurse might be introduced into the large public schools of the crowded foreign quarters of the city, and has lost no opportunity of making the "school nurse" of London known to those who might be interested in a similar movement here. Some little time ago Miss Whitelaw, who has had both teacher's and nurse's training, went back to public-school work after having worked in the settlement as a nurse, and from her double stand-point presented a strong set of data to a School Board official, showing the loss of school time often suffered by children who were excluded by the medical inspector from the school by reason of some slight infectious trouble, which by dint of not being attended to remained uncured and debarred the child from its education—all too short, at any rate, for the children of the poor, who must at the age of fourteen leave school for wage-earning.

About the same time the subject of the medical inspection, its good points and its weak ones, was spoken of at the Nurses' Settlement by an official of the Board of Education, and practical suggestions were invited from Miss Wald and her associates. The experience of the nurses in the settlement was that the medical inspection was deficient from the stand-point of the child, in that it excluded him, but did not advise nor treat him, neither was he looked after.

Their practical suggestion was that a nurse should work with the physician, carrying out under his orders the treatment for simple cases, without excluding them from school, and following to their homes the more serious cases of eye, head, or skin trouble, seeing that they received medical attention, teaching the mother, when this should be necessary, and keeping a record of the time the child was absent, not allowing it to remain out of school longer than necessary. At present, while the truant-officer has the oversight of delinquent children, he has no jurisdiction over those who have been sent home by the doctor.

This suggestion was cordially received both by the Education and Health Boards, and not long ago the presidents of the two boards dined at the settlement, where the plan was discussed and details for a month's experiment talked over.

The result was that Miss Wald offered to supply a nurse for one month without cost, and on October 1 the experiment was begun, Miss L. L. Rogers, a resident of the settlement, being the one selected to initiate it.

Miss Rogers has a group of schools in the near neighborhood, four in all, having a school population of about four thousand five hundred children. She visits each school daily, having in each one an extemporized dressing-room, with lamps for heating water, etc. Here she dresses or cleanses all such cases as the physician directs, mild cases of

conjunctivitis, minor skin infections, such as ring-worm, etc., and these children need not then miss their class-work, as otherwise they would have to do as a matter of protection to the rest. She then visits all those who have been sent home, and keeps records of them. The teachers have received her in the most cordial and helpful spirit, and the medical inspectors have made the most careful and definite effort at thorough coöperation, that the work may be effective and proceed without hitches.

So far the experiment seems eminently satisfactory, but whether it can be continued is, of course, a matter of uncertainty, as it would involve expense, and municipal appropriations are never large enough. However, that it has been begun is a matter of congratulation, and that it has the support and endorsement of the Health and Education officials is beyond question.

WOMEN INSPECTORS.

THE following are the names of the first women inspectors appointed in the Tenement-house Department of New York City: Miss Mary B. Sayles, fellow of the College Settlements Association; Dr. Margaret Brewster, assistant physician in the outdoor department of the Presbyterian Hospital; Dr. Gertrude Light, of the Children's Clinic at Bellevue Hospital; Miss Anna L. Nevins, Columbia University; Miss Jeanette Moffett, who had charge of the Department of Social Economics at the Paris Exposition in 1900; Miss Emily W. Dinwiddie, of the New York Charity Organization Society; Miss Helen D. Thompson, sanitary inspector of the Civic Sanitary Association of the Oranges, N. J.; Miss Mildred B. Fairfield, inspector and supervisor of the People's University Extension Society of New York; and Miss Christine L. Kuntz, graduate of the Summer School in Philanthropic Work.

[The names of nurses in this list are conspicuous by their absence.—Ed.]

