

I AM sorry the writer does not even mention that so many of these are initiated, if not controlled, by that most admirable and efficient organization, the Metropolitan and National Association, which I gave a short notice of, in a previous number, describing how much it owed to its President, the Duke of Westminster, and its most energetic Lady Superintendent, Miss Mansel. It should be remembered, in common fairness, that to the action of this Association, when Miss Florence Lees was its Lady Superintendent, much of the present position and success of District Nursing is due. However, the article then describes how "about half a dozen Nurses usually live together under a Lady Superintendent, and at the request of doctors, ministers or district visitors, they visit those in need of their services," and states that "about fifteen cases are attended every day by each Nurse."

THE description of two typical cases is too good a word-picture not to repeat it. "In the cottage of an artisan may be a small child the victim of hip disease and abscesses. Here the appearance of the Nurse is greeted with an eager smile; for she alone knows how to handle the small sufferer, so as not to jar the injured limb, every movement of which gives exquisite agony. The child is dressed, and carried down to the kitchen table, which, though hard, affords her a wider view of life and of such incidents as may help to speed the weary hours. Another patient is in a rather better station of life, yet cannot afford to add to the other expenses of illness, the weekly guinea, which is the smallest fee ever accepted by a Private Nurse. The wife, here, is a helpless, nervous woman, who keeps her husband in a state of irritation, and the whole house in execrable confusion. In a few minutes the trained hand and educated sense of the Nurse have reduced all to order, without noise or bustle, she lifts the man without discomfort either to herself or him, while the crumbs are removed from the bed; and the cold, sloppy poultice, which, before her arrival, was meandering about the pillow, is replaced by a firm hot mass of meal, tightly, yet comfortably bandaged in the proper position."

THEN, again, this is very good and true. "Cleanliness and regularity reigns where a Nurse has sway, and her common sense dispels the many superstitions which actuate women to folly while in this state" (after confinement). "It is the Nurse who sternly sets her face against 'sleepy stuff' and patent medicine, and foods for the infant, who persuades the mother to date her recovery by the return of her strength, instead of by fixed periods; who pulls the sack out of the chimney

and pronounces night air not injurious, and who teaches that children thrive on light and air." A strong appeal is made for sympathy with "the lonely and unselfish" lot of the Nurses of a country parish; and speaking of the Central Institution to be formed with the Women's Jubilee Offering, the writer expresses the hope that the country Parochial Nurse will somehow be recognised and assisted in the scheme. "Let her have the need of sympathy and companionship that a association with a large central institution will be sure to give her." I quite agree with the writer here, and wonder only that the article does not proceed to point out that the Nurse could obtain all that, and more, by becoming a member of the British Nurses' Association!

THE life and duties of the Hospital Nurse are then described, and the many advantages she possesses over her sister, in district work, duly enlarged upon. But the hard work and scanty pay she receives are strongly insisted upon, and then the National Pension Fund is dragged in. The writer states that the "Fund will step in and organise species of benevolent societies" for Nurses, "take care of their interests, encourage them to save, grant aid during sickness, and secure annuities for the aged and infirm." It is quite evident that, however much the writer knows about Nurses, she or he knows little or nothing about the Pension Fund. Every week strengthens the feeling now so generally expressed that this Fund cannot be successful, that the Nurses cannot, from their scanty salaries, afford to pay the large premiums required, and that unless the large premiums are paid, the Fund cannot be worked at all. Then, Mr. Editor, some weeks ago, convincingly proved that the whole "bonus" income, as it is called, and which Nurses were told was to be used to supplement their pensions, must be swallowed up in the expenses of carrying on the affair.

BUT to return to the Article; it concludes with an equally good description of the Private Nurse's work. Her life is truly said to be "very strange and varied; now tending a child in some great mansion, where there is a servant specially told off to wait upon them; then nursing a young wife in a suburban villa, where there is only a maid-of-all-work and a dearth of what are commonly regarded as the necessaries of life." "The Nurse who pleases all must, indeed, be a wonder," says the writer, commenting on the tact and patience required from a Private Nurse. "It is reported that a celebrated Physician remarked to a patient whom a constant succession of Nurses had failed to satisfy, 'You had better send to heaven, my

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