

it will encourage women in other occupations to unite themselves together. And from this will naturally follow an increased value of female labour, and many other consequent advances in our political economy. It is unnecessary, therefore, to adduce further reasons to prove that it behoves Nurses to join their own professional Association.

It only remains, therefore, for me to prove my final contention—that Nurses, by joining the Association, can show their goodwill to the sick and suffering throughout these Islands, and all their friends and relations; in fact, to the whole population probably of the United Kingdom. This is an easy task. Because the more quickly the Association enrolls its members, the more powerful will be its petition to Her Majesty the Queen in Council for the grant of a Royal Charter, and the more speedily therefore is that petition likely to be presented. The sooner the Registration of Nurses is legalised by the State and carried into effect, the more rapidly will the sick public be saved from inefficient and ignorant Nursing, and the less amount of unnecessary suffering and danger will be caused. Consequently each Nurse who, within the next few months, is enrolled as a member of the Association, will be an active helper in this great work. At the present rate of progress, in three years, every one of the estimated fifteen thousand Nurses in the kingdom will be a member. The burden and the heat of the work will be over. Now, therefore, and at once, is the most honourable time for Nurses to join, and become participators in the present struggle and in the success that undoubtedly will be secured. Now is the time at which such action will be most valuable to the Association, and therefore to all the other classes to which I have referred. Now is the time at which each individual Nurse has the grandest opportunity she has ever had, or is ever likely to have at this season in future years, of showing forth her own goodwill, and thought, and care for others, in obedience to the Christmas Chimes.

### DISTRICT NURSES AND THEIR WORK.

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**I**T is a true saying, that one half of the world does not know how the other half lives.

Now although much has been said and written lately about the condition of the poor, few people, I venture to think, know so well "how the poor live," as the District Nurse.

She visits her patients daily, or oftener if need

be, according to the nature of the case; she sees them at all times, and under different circumstances. She does not go in as the almsgiver—this is against the rules of the Association,—but she goes in simply as the Nurse who gives her services, her time, her strength, to further the recovery, and to alleviate the sufferings, of those placed under her charge.

Going thus at all times and seasons into the homes of the poor, the Nurse is able to judge very accurately whether the poverty has come through misfortune, in which case it is often bravely borne and struggled against, or whether it is caused, as unfortunately is oftener the case, by drunkenness and degradation.

The influence that a District Nurse has over her patients is great. How important then that it should be of a refining and elevating character. This is the reason that we select our Nurses from the upper and educated classes.

Then the cases nursed are of such a varied nature, that a most thorough training in every branch of nursing is necessary to fit a Nurse for work in the District. Indeed she needs some months' special training in District Nursing, after her Hospital training, to make her a thoroughly competent Nurse.

Perhaps a morning's round with one of the Nurses will give the best insight into their work, and show the plan of working.

Punctually as the clock strikes eight, the Nurses may be seen emerging from the Central Home, each carrying under her cloak the District bag, provided with the necessary contents for the day's work.

Our first case was in a Mews. Passing through a stable, between a line of horses' heels at each side of us, we mounted a narrow, steep ladder—staircase it could not be called. Upon a bed lay a young girl about sixteen, her bright eyes, flushed cheeks, and thin, wasted hands and arms told the sad tale of rapid consumption.

"Oh, Nurse, how I have longed for you and watched the clock! But I knew you would come!" she exclaimed, as we entered the room.

Nurse took off her cloak, hung it behind the door, and set to work. Very soon the patient was comfortably washed, her bed made without removing her, her hair combed and brushed. All the time Nurse was chatting cheerfully to the poor sick girl.

The next case on the list was one of typhoid fever. On the top floor of an old, rickety house, in a narrow street, the patient lived. He was a man about thirty-four years of age, and had been engaged taking up drains, and in this way had come by his illness. He had a wife and three little children. His wife was very anxious to keep

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