

"H. M. Hospital,  
"April 6, 1889.

"Dear Dr. Barnardo,—I am *very much* surprised by your letter of the 5th instant, as by your *own request* my sister is here, and has remained, on the strength of promises made by *you to her and me*; therefore I can take no steps in the matter without further explanation from you. You *cannot* put it on the score of *inefficiency or delicacy*, as she has done her work *thoroughly* and faithfully.

"Waiting further explanation from you,  
"I remain, yours faithfully,  
"SISTER CLARA."

### THE TRAINED NURSE IN CANADA.

UNDER this heading, Mr. Editor, I wish to contribute a short article to your widely read paper. I know the interest our home Nurses take in their fellow-workers abroad, and after a short stay in this beautiful country of Canada, I feel it a duty to the profession to state what I find here. It is well known that the United States of America have their good training schools for Nurses, where certificates are given and good salaries are to be had when the Nurse is trained. In Canada—a country larger than the United States, but for many reasons much behind the States in progress—the value of Trained Nursing is only beginning to be felt. There has been, as yet, very little Nursing organisation, and those young women whose sympathies go towards the work, seek training in New York or Boston. As we well know, the heart of a Nurse clings to her first training school, and as the salaries offered in the States are usually higher than those given in Canada, the Nurse remains to work there rather than return here.

It must not be forgotten that a large part of Canada is Roman Catholic, and its numerous religious institutions furnish Nursing Sisters for many of the Hospitals, as the Notre Dame and Hotel Dieu in Montreal, and I believe also the General Hospital in Quebec; but these cannot by any means be considered training schools. Toronto, Winnipeg and some other cities have training schools attached to their Hospitals, but what they can effect must be very little towards supplying Canada with the Nurses needed. These Protestant schools are of recent organisation, and cannot keep pace with the requirements of a people quickly acquiring wealth, and demanding the comforts and surroundings which wealth supplies—and surely the advantage of Trained Nursing in sickness may thus be classed; it is the outcome of educational work, by which hand and heart are fitted for the skilled, yet gentle and

patient service which the true Nurse will render. If, then, the needs of Canada in Nursing work are not met by her own people, it seems to me a fitting place to which the almost over-supply of our home-trained Nurses may be directed.

English people are never so loyal as when helping on good work in the Colonies, and when, added to a large field for remunerative work, we find a bracing climate, there is surely something to be gained by our Nurses transferring their labours to this new country. The part of Canada to which I would draw attention as offering the best field for work is Montreal, a city with a large and wealthy population, occupying a central situation, and by its McGill University furnishing many of the first Medical men to be found in America. There has already been commenced the new Royal Victoria Hospital, the gift of two of Montreal's millionaire citizens, to which a training school will be attached; but this may be two or three years before it is completed. And, meanwhile, the need for Trained Nurses is indeed urgent—could our sisters at home know how much so, I am sure the want would be met. An English lady has established a Nursing Institution in this city, and gladly welcomes Nurses of good training and character; indeed, the English Nurses of McGill College Avenue are already well known for their work here.

English Nurses are practical, and on reading this they will at once ask, "How much can we earn if we go out there?" and "Shall we have home comforts?" I will answer the last question first. Montreal is a city of enlightenment and offers much comfort in many ways: beautiful fruits, cheap provisions, good houses and numerous churches of all denominations; the extremes of heat and cold are felt, but both are bearable, and are provided against in the construction of the houses.

The wages a Nurse may earn will vary according to her work and qualifications. She may certainly make fifteen dollars a month—that is about three pound sterling; the value of the dollar is four shillings and twopence in English money.

My stay in this country has been scarcely two months, but in spite of the summer heat (frequently over 80° in the shade), I am already feeling made over again by its invigorating atmosphere, and have found a sphere of congenial and remunerative work.

Canada as an outlet for our English training schools only needs to be known to be appreciated; and from the many English and Scotch residents here, there is not the feeling of strangeness one might expect to find in a land some thousands of miles away.

A. S.

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