

1. She can enter on Hospital work as a Nurse, Sister, or Matron.
2. She can enter on Private Nursing, relying on the introductions of Medical men with whom she is acquainted.
3. The Nurse may elect to join a Home, where her salary is insured, her expenses are paid, and she is well cared for in times of illness.

The Home for Trained Nurses in Alma Road, St. Kilda, of which I have been hon. secretary for the last three and a-half years, has now been in existence for more than four years. I venture to think that year by year it is more appreciated, both by Trained Nurses and by Medical men.

On entering the Home the Nurses bind themselves to remain there for at least one year; uniform is provided, and all travelling and laundry expenses are paid.

The Nurses are sent to persons requiring their services in any part of this or the neighbouring colonies, the Home Committee, as far as possible, vouching for the character and capabilities of each Nurse on the staff.

Each Nurse receives besides her salary a bonus of 15 per cent. on her own earnings for the Home.

If the funds at the end of the year allow of its being done, this bonus is raised to 25 per cent., which is what each Nurse has received on her individual earnings for the last two years.

The Home was founded by subscriptions, and is managed by a committee of ladies and a Lady Superintendent.

The Home is now entirely self-supporting, and any subscriptions that are received are put into a poor fund account, which is of great use in enabling the Committee to send Nurses to those who are unable to pay the full fees.

Next year the Home Committee hopes to support one Nurse, whose whole time will be devoted to Nursing the sick poor in the neighbourhood. It is intended to charge a shilling per week per family for her services. She will wear the Home uniform, and will work under the control of the Committee.

The number of Nurses on the Home Staff at present is twenty-three.

At first there was some prejudice among medical men against Trained Nurses, whose knowledge they seemed to fear would make them less inclined to obey orders and more ready to act as if their training placed them on a level with the Doctor. It ought to be well understood, there-

fore, that the strictest obedience is one of the principles which is most strongly enforced upon those who are being trained for the Nursing profession. In some of the religious Nursing Sisterhoods, obedience is taught in a fashion which might almost be thought too severe, though it is right to acknowledge that it is perhaps the most important factor in a Nurse's career. A Nurse who cannot be trusted to obey is dangerous. Any prejudice against the employment of Trained Nurses may be said to have entirely disappeared from the minds of medical men at home, and I venture to believe that it is fast disappearing in this colony. Medical men soon feel the advantage of having to deal with women whom they can trust to carry out their instructions faithfully and intelligently during their absence, and on whose words they can implicitly rely.

IV.—STATUS OF NURSING AS A PROFESSION.

Not many years ago the nursing and tending of the sick was thought to be a work for which anyone was fitted; success in it seemed open even to those who had failed in all other attempts to earn a livelihood. In some quarters this opinion still seems to hold good, if one may judge by an advertisement which might frequently be seen in the *Argus*, and which ran as follows:—“Wanted, a respectable woman to act as Nurse. Apply,” &c.

Slowly but steadily this state of things is passing away, and in Europe and America women of high position and education are constantly coming forward and devoting their lives to the work of Nursing, thereby raising the tone of the profession. Nurses who have been properly trained are now recognised as holding a distinct position, and one that is highly and generally respected.

To belong to a profession which has included in its ranks such women as Florence Nightingale, Agnes Jones, and Sister Dora, not to mention others, is surely a position of which any woman should be proud. But that position should be jealously guarded, and it should not be permitted that women without proper training, and a right to the name, should call themselves Trained Nurses. This abuse should be especially guarded against in this country, where the public is only learning what a Trained Nurse means, and where no opportunity seems to be lost to speak slightly of the nursing profession, when in many cases some individual is to blame who has been sailing under false colours. This difficulty has been felt elsewhere. To guard against this

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