

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Isla Stewart, and several Gold Medallists from Barts.; Miss Gordon from St. Thomas's; Miss Thorold, Miss Florence Smedley, Mrs. Walter Spencer, the popular new Hon. Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, Miss Phillippa Hicks of the "Co.," and Misses Annesley and Henrietta Kenealy.

* * *

At a recent meeting of the Select Vestry of the parish of Liverpool, and in moving the confirmation of the Workhouse Committee's proceedings, Mr. PICKTHALL said:—

"The proceedings are of more than usual interest, as they contain the recommendation to increase considerably the Nurses' Home. For some time it has been known that we were, according to the numbers in the Hospital, understaffed in the Nursing. The doctor sent down by the Local Government Board some time ago gave us a most favourable report, and said he could not understand how the Hospitals were kept in such excellent order and the patients so well looked after with so small a number of Nurses, and suggested we should take into consideration the advisability of increasing the staff, particularly the night staff. The Nurses' Committee went into the matter, and came to the conclusion the time had come for us to make an increase of about twenty additional Nurses. Before this can be done, we must provide for them suitable accommodation, as most of you are aware a number of Nurses have sleeping apartments outside the home. Now, in the recommendation that is before you, provision will be made for the whole of the Nursing Staff to be concentrated in one building, with the most modern cooking and kitchen appliances, and large dining and lecture halls, the last-named being a most important feature. It goes without saying that you are all most anxious to maintain the reputation Brownlow-hill has made for itself in turning out the best trained Nurses in the kingdom, and this is borne out by the fact of us having regularly on the books about six months' applications in advance. You will have noticed the committee first decided to extend at right angles with the present home. The strongest recommendation this site had, it displaced the smallest number of inmates of the house. The committee afterwards changed its mind, partly through what they believed to be the wishes of the Local Government Board inspector, and now unanimously recommend for your approval the site along Brownlow-hill, erecting a three-storeyed building in a line with the present home, complete in itself and up to date as far as we can make it. I have, therefore, much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Workhouse Committee's proceedings, and hope for the unanimous approval of this board."

* * *

MISS WHITMORE JONES, of Chastleton, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, Gloucestershire, has some account books arranged to meet the wants of country Nursing Associations. We extract a summary of their aims and objects from the leaflet to be obtained from Miss JONES, as it is highly edifying, showing the estimation in which "trained Nursing" is still held "in the wilds":—"The residents are divided into four classes, who pay yearly subscriptions as follow: Class I., labourers, 2s.; Class II., artisans and gentlemen's servants, 3s.; Class III., farmers and tradespeople, 5s.; Class IV., gentry, 10s.; a similar amount being paid weekly when the Nurses' services are required. Double these fees are paid if the case be an

infectious one. Non-subscribers pay a higher fee, and cannot demand a Nurse as a right as subscribers can. For casual work the charges for the first two classes is 2d. per visit, 3d. for farmers, and 4d. for gentry. For a single day or night the charge (with board) for the first two classes is 6d., for Class III. 8d., and for Class IV. 1s."

* * *

A LARGE number of rural Nursing Associations, more or less on the Holt Ockling system, are springing up all over the country, and by which system it would appear that "the gentry" as well as the cottager is to have his Nursing on the co-operative system. What a millenium for "decayed gentle persons," four pence a visit, or eight pence per day; and we Nurses know those days—sixteen hours' work at a stretch—*one halfpenny per hour!!* What would BEATRICE POTTER WEBB and her casual docker say to such munificent remuneration? We would ask JOHN BURNS, Is it a "living wage" even for women? We thank Miss WHITMORE JONES of Chastleton, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, Gloucestershire, but we fear, not being constituted *à la Snipe*, that we must decline with thanks.

* * *

A TRAINED Nurse from Sydney writes:—

"I have been in Sydney for some time, and write to tell you a little about the state of Nursing and Nurses here as I find them. In the first place, Sydney is flooded with untrained women who, having been in one of the Hospitals for a few months, or perhaps a year or so, and having left through failing health or disinclination for the work, take up private nursing and get some young doctor to give them a few cases to gain experience. These pretenders simply spoil the profession for others, and bring such discredit on Nurses generally as a body, that it is difficult for good Nurses to get employment and a fair remuneration, which makes life much harder here than it should be. There are only one or two well organized Nurses' Homes; but there are several houses where Nurses board and lodge, and where the proprietors make capital out of these so-called Nurses and the public. The whole system is rotten. At the Hospitals the Nurses and Sisters are too young, and although there are many courses of lectures for the Probationers and Nursing Staff, there is want of good bed-side nursing in the wards, and a great lack of that discipline and regularity in the work of the ward which is only maintained by Sisters of experience both in the details of nursing, control of subordinates, and with knowledge of the world. The English trained Nurse is not appreciated here, preference being almost invariably given to those Nurses born and bred in the colony. There are Cottage Hospitals all over the country, very inefficiently staffed, and, in consequence, where the Matron is conscientious, she usually ruins her health with overwork. If she is a 'society woman,' she neglects her work for balls, tennis, pic-nics, and shows, and usually sends in her resignation to the relief of the community, and marries. The latter is the typical Nurse of the colonies. I am filled with sorrow for the young English Nurse who comes out here full of hope and bright dreams, for sooner or later they are sure to fade; and as medical men here do not appreciate the fully-trained women, they think nothing of working her night and day, after the fashion of some notorious London abdominal surgeons. Reform is greatly needed, and I very much wish a branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association could be established here for the protection of the nurse and the sick public."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)