

IN our issue of September 1st, our readers may perhaps remember that, under the heading of "Rural Nursing," we described and criticised a new scheme which had then been recently propounded for the institution of Nursing Scholarships in Lincolnshire, while, in another column of the same number, we reprinted the Scheme as it had then been submitted to us. We have recently received a letter from Lady WINCHILSEA to which we have been unable, by press of other matters, sooner to refer, but to the statements contained in which we have much pleasure in now giving as full publicity as we accorded to the original Scheme.

It is well-known in the Nursing world that Lady WINCHILSEA has done perhaps more than any other worker to bring about improvements in District Nursing work, and a better organization for the service of the sick poor in rural neighbourhoods. The original scheme to which we called attention contained no mention of the fact that Lady WINCHILSEA was connected with it; in fact it gave no names at all, or we probably would have taken means to ascertain further particulars concerning it before we commented upon, and criticised, its proposals.

The training then of the women educated under the County Council Scheme is, we are informed by our correspondent, "that of Certificated Midwives and Monthly Nurses which they receive at Plaistow under Miss TWINING, three months being occupied exclusively by midwifery training, after which they pass the examination of the L.O.S., and obtain their diploma; the other three months they devote to monthly nursing, and receive besides such elementary instruction in ordinary sick nursing and first aid as can be given in so very short a time." The reason given for the employment of this class of workers, and for their limited education, is that the rural districts in which they work are so poor that it would be impossible to obtain the services of a fully-trained Nurse, and it was believed to be better to have women engaged in this work who possessed at any rate a certain amount of knowledge than to have those who were entirely ignorant, and therefore inefficient. There is much to be said for this argument, and so long as it is clearly understood that these women are not trained Nurses, in any sense of the term, they may render much help to the cottagers amongst whom they work.

In the next place, we are informed that it was a mistake in the printed scheme that Probationers would cost £4 each for one month's training at Lincoln. This fact, stated in paragraph 8 of the printed scheme, published by us on September 1st, and then commented upon, was, it appears, a total

error on the part of some official, and, as a matter of fact, the scholar only goes to Lincoln for a few days in order that her character and capacity may be estimated by Miss BROMHEAD—than whom we can imagine no one better qualified to form such an opinion; while, finally, the actual payment made, only covers the board of the Probationer for the period of her stay in the Lincoln Institution, and usually varies between 4s. 6d. and 10s. instead of the £4 stated in the original draft scheme, as the fee paid to the Institution for a month's residence and board of the scholar.

With this explanation, which completely alters the original printed scheme, we need scarcely say, disappears at once the stringent criticism which we felt called upon to make upon such a proposed use of public money.

We are much pleased to learn that Lady WINCHILSEA has obtained from the Lincolnshire County Council a donation of £100 to found Scholarships for the training and education of Nurses for the service of the poor in that county. Herein we think that an excellent example has been set to every other county in the Kingdom, and we would draw attention to the immense benefits which such technical education of suitable candidates would confer upon the poor in every rural district throughout these islands. But we would insist, and are glad to believe that in this we shall have the support of our correspondent and of others who feel with her, that the education thus given should be *thorough and complete*—that the women, for example, who obtain such Scholarships, should be sent for three years to a first-class training school, so that the county should receive the services of persons thoroughly qualified in every way to carry out the important duties of nursing the sick poor. When life and death are in the balance, skilled care is as important for the poor as for the rich, and we totally disapprove of the attitude assumed by some who contend that all the cottager requires in the way of Nursing is the assistance of someone of his or her own class who will boil the kettle and feed the fowls while experimenting in Nursing upon the patient.

THE epidemic of typhoid fever at Newport, Isle of Wight, as yet, unfortunately, shows no subsidence. In fact, there has been a marked increase during the past week, both in the number of fresh cases and in the severity of the symptoms. So far, about 300 have been attacked, and the proportion of deaths has been extremely large. Something like a panic took place a few days ago, and many families have left. The County Council of the Isle of Wight, which has hitherto held all its

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