

as every sympathetic woman must be, with the want in the past of all proper arrangements for nursing the poor at their own homes, Sister Katherine in 1889 commenced training District and Midwifery Nurses at Plaistow. The work has grown beyond her means, beyond the means of her immediate friends. It has been possible for her to go on till now, but the moment is rapidly approaching when, if not helped, her life's work must end. Without giving many figures, which few would read, but which are open to all who will, the work which has been done is sufficiently impressive to justify an appeal to a wider public. In the seven years Sister Katherine has trained 182 women as Midwives, all of whom have passed the London Obstetrical Society's examination, to take the place of the "old women of the village." It cannot be generally known, but it should be, that out of every 100 blind people in England no fewer than 30 owe their calamity to the neglect by these ignorant, untrained women, of the ordinary elementary rules of cleanliness.

The District Nurses, of whom she has trained 321, are working in 28 different counties for private people, or under County Associations, so the work concerns a far larger public than the residents at Plaistow, where the Nurses are trained and where the poor benefit beyond description by their nursing. At Plaistow there are now 65 Nurses being trained under proper supervision and teachers. Last year they paid nearly 100,000 visits to the sick poor in that district, and 1,200 women were attended in their confinements. The supervision, training, housing and food, &c., of these Nurses necessarily costs money. The fees paid only half meet that cost. The deficit has, so far, been borne by Sister Katherine and her friends. She needs now £4,000 to build a Home for the Nurses, it being increasingly difficult to have the Nurses scattered all over the district; she needs £1,000 to pay off a mortgage and a debt; and she needs £1,500 a year to continue the work. There is no limit to the work that she and those under her can do except the limit of means. Numbers of Nurses are refused each year.

We ourselves know the work, we can personally vouch for its being well, carefully, and thoroughly done, and we hope the public will agree that having found a woman able to initiate and organise this great work, she ought to be relieved of the pressing anxiety of seeing her life's work cramped, if not ended, for the want of so comparatively small a sum.

We are,  
Your obedient servants,  
WINCHILSEA, President.  
MILLICENT SUTHERLAND.  
MAUD SELBORNE.  
EDITH WINCHILSEA.  
J. W. ALBAN.  
H. F. COLCHESTER.  
SYDNEY HOLLAND.

Donations may be sent to Robert Williams, Esq., Treasurer of the Maternity Charity and District Nurses' Home, Howard's Road, Plaistow, E., or direct to the Bankers, Messrs. Williams, Deacon & Co., 20, Birch Lane, E.C.

#### MATRONS' APPOINTMENTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was interested to read in last week's correspondence, under the heading "Matrons' Appoint-

ments," a most valuable suggestion made under the signature, "A Primrose, &c." (alluding, I presume, to her natural modesty), that a list should be kept of women in the nursing world "possessing the natural qualifications for superintendence"—the writer goes on to lament the lack of discipline in a Hospital, resulting from weak and unwise government upon the part of Matrons who do not possess the qualifications to rule.

Now this is a really valuable suggestion, and one which might and ought to be considered by the Matrons' Council. This latter body, composed as it is of Matrons, would possess the knowledge concerning the characteristics of each of their Sisters and Nurses. After having them under their direct supervision for three years or upwards, they would certainly be in a position to know whether or no these ladies possessed the various attributes necessary to make good Superintendents, and if a list were compiled by the Matrons' Council, conscientious care being taken that only those ladies who really possess those characteristics which are absolutely necessary for ruling firmly and kindly were placed upon it, we feel that the Committees of Hospitals would be greatly aided in their selection of a Matron, by applying for information concerning candidates to such a body. At present half the inefficient training from which our Nurses suffer, results from having women at the head of our Nurse Training Schools, who are totally unfitted for the responsible positions which they fill.

I am yours,  
A PROVINCIAL MATRON.

#### THE TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In the enquiries of M.E.W. concerning the present treatment of typhoid fever in England—she brings out first of all the fact alluded to in a recent issue of the RECORD, that the education of a trained Nurse should be based on a knowledge of hygiene, she tells us of the neglect in Genoa in the cleansing of water cisterns and the natural result from dirty water supply, of the prevalence of fever in that malodorous city. Now I would ask what percentage of English householders systematically cleanse their cisterns, water gullies and drains—not one in fifty. One has only to take a bird's-eye view out of a third floor back window to be quite appalled at the decomposing vegetable matter to be found in the water gullies of one's next door neighbour—and no doubt could one peep into his cistern much unhealthy sediment would be found. I consider the suggestion lately made by Dr. Schofield at Grosvenor House, to train "Health Sisters," a most valuable one; and whether or no these ladies found remunerative employment in poking into drains and sinks *professionally*, they would at least grasp the importance when householders themselves of attending to the unseen dangers of cistern, sink, gully, drain. London suffers much from diphtheria, scarlet fever, and typhoid, and it is little doubt that the gross ignorance of the average householder concerning hygienic matters, is a very great public danger. This ignorance is being appreciated by many educational bodies which are now adopting hygiene as a necessary subject for examination.

I remain yours, &c.  
EMILY G. TOWNSEND.

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