

## A LIVING WAGE?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The enclosed advertisement appeared in the *Church Times* recently, and similar ones occur not infrequently :

WANTED a DISTRICT NURSE (Rhondda Valley), Single. Midwife, as well as general training. Age 28 to 40. Uniform, furnished room. Salary £36. Apply, with references, &c.

It seems to me that it would benefit those of us who would like to be District Nurses if you would ventilate the subject of their salaries in your columns, and the question as to how they can obtain a living wage. Many Nurses would gladly undertake district work, but the salaries offered are, for the most part, entirely prohibitive unless a Nurse has private means. I would point out that £36 is frequently paid to thoroughly trained Nurses who are engaged in Hospital work, and even this can scarcely be said to be adequate payment considering the responsible nature of their work ; but the inevitable law of supply and demand steps in, and as there appears to be a "glut in the market" of Nurses, good, bad and indifferent, many good Nurses are found willing to accept this salary with work in a congenial sphere, and consequently more is not offered.

But for the Hospital Nurse this £36 is at all events clear gain. The Hospital she serves provides her with board and lodging, washing and uniform, and she gets the best possible care if she fall ill in its service. With the District Nurse it is otherwise. She is offered this magnificent salary and a furnished room. For this she has presumably to pay some one to look after the said room, cook her meals for her, board herself, clothe herself, put by money in case of illness—for she has no Hospital at her back whose wards will be open to her until she is fit to work again, and moreover to save enough money to keep herself out of the workhouse when she is no longer active enough for District work. The thing is, on the face of it, absurd and impracticable. I would suggest that the advertisement should rather run : "Wanted, some charitably disposed lady with private means, who is a trained Nurse, who would kindly give her services as District Nurse in a country parish which is unable to offer a salary. A suitable candidate will be provided with board and lodging, and a limited amount of attendance."

I do not suggest that the advertisement should mention midwifery training as desirable, because it appears to me that no conscientious woman can combine general district work with midwifery Nursing.

It would be interesting to know what are the qualifications of the candidates—for doubtless there will be candidates for this post. I have heard it urged in a country parish where a District Nurse was to be appointed, that she should be *untrained*, "because she would be so much more amenable to doctor's orders!" The appointment was, therefore, made on these lines, but has not been, as may be imagined, wholly satisfactory. Perhaps the advertisement I have quoted will bring in applications from persons of this description, but that the post will be sought after by Nurses who know their work is difficult to suppose.

I am, dear madam,  
Yours faithfully  
M.R.B.N.A.

## NURSING IN TASMANIA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Having just returned from a visit to Hobart, "Tasmania," I thought fellow Nurses in dear old England might like to know how Nursing progresses in the island.

There is a large General Hospital in the city, with, I hear, 200 beds, very perfectly conducted, also an Isolation Hospital without the grounds of the General, and a Convalescent one some few miles out of the city.

There are several Nurses' Homes ; all the Nurses who join them having to show their certificate of three years' training.

Maternity Nursing is performed by elderly married women, many of whom have had no training, and, thanks no doubt to the excellent climate, their patients, without any exception, seem to make rapid recoveries.

The climate for nine months out of twelve reminds one of a summer day in England, with cool breezes night and morning, from both sea and mountains. The scenery is perfect, large fern trees growing in abundance, whilst English fruits, and flowers of all descriptions, holly and hawthorn hedges, hop and corn-fields, with Mount Wellington in the distance, makes Hobart one of the prettiest places in the Colonies to spend a holiday.

I remain, your truly,

MARGARET PAMMENTER.

Sydney, N.S.W.

M.R.B.N.A.

## LAUNDRY WORK.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—With regard to the correspondence on the subject of Hospital laundry work which has been going on in the RECORD, you may be interested to hear how admirably the laundry arrangements of the Lightburn Joint Hospital in Lanarkshire are managed. I append a description of the system :—A slide-valve engine, cylinder 11 inches with a 24-inch stroke, drives the laundry and the dynamo for supplying electric light to the Hospital. Two rotary washing machines with outside casing of steel boiler-plate and inside cage made of one sheet of brass, all copper riveted to prevent corrosion. The clothes are put into the brass cage, steam and water turned on, and the driving-belt moved on the pulley ; the shell revolves and reverses automatically, and the clothes are thoroughly cleansed in thirty minutes. In close proximity to the washing machines stands the hydro-extractor or centrifugal. The clothes are taken direct from the washers to the hydro, which runs at 1,500 revolutions per minute ; the water in a very few minutes is almost entirely extracted, and the sheets, table linen, &c., sufficiently dry to go to the ironing machine. This machine consists of four padded rollers, 108 inches long, revolving in four steam-heated chests. The articles to be dried and ironed are fed in at the one side of the machine and pass over the heated surface and under the rollers, and emerge at the other side dried and beautifully finished. Is not this excellent?

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