

Charteris, "That in the opinion of this meeting the time has come to organise a scheme for providing nurses for the sick poor in their own homes in the county of Norfolk." On the proposition of Miss Buxton it was decided that cottage nursing on the Holt-Ockley principle be adopted in the villages, and on the motion of Mrs. Lefroy that district nursing by which we imagine it is intended to carry on the work by trained and educated nurses, be adopted in the towns. A committee was appointed to give practical effect to the resolutions.

ALL the ladies' papers have now departments for giving advice on special work for women, and it is a pity that these departments are not edited by specialists. In answer to "Edith's Mother" in one of these "ladies'" publications we find the following reply:—

Your sensible letter interests me very much, and I am glad to give you my advice. As your daughter is nearly twenty, and must work for her living, you are quite right to look ahead, and the conflicting statements you have heard about nursing naturally make you hesitate in your decision. Now, there are a great many advantages and disadvantages in the work of the nurse, and these must be carefully taken into consideration. First, as regards the disadvantages. The training is very hard—do not mind what people say—nurses are very hard-worked people—and the first nine months of hospital life are a most terrible strain on a woman, physically and mentally; and honestly, I do not know whether I could ever advise a young woman to go through it. Even if she survive the first nine months, the remainder of the three years' course in hospital is incessant and arduous labour, and there is, in addition, much in every hospital that must and should shock a woman of sensitiveness and refinement. A large proportion of nurses are not troubled with these qualities, and that is why I cannot think the best types of woman—sensitive, refined, exquisitely gentle—are always successful in hospital nursing."

It is quite evident that the writer of this reply to "Edith's Mother" is not well informed on the question of nurse training and ward management. As we are all aware, the work of a probationer in the majority of Training Schools is well within the mental and physical capacity of healthy, well-educated girls, and those who are not healthy and well-educated are unsuitable for completing the curriculum of any skilled profession.

THE statement that there is much in every hospital that must and should shock a woman of sensitiveness and refinement is simply twaddle. Again let us assert the unanswerable principle that there is no sex in nursing, the suffering and the helpless are as deserving of a *true woman's* care in every necessary detail by which suffering can be alleviated, and the helpless made strong, as a new-born babe; and in the mind of a woman of "sensitiveness and refinement" there is *no* office which it is necessary for her to perform for the relief of her

patient that can shock her purity. We maintain that it is the "best types of women" who make the best nurses, and that prudery is not synonymous with purity. What a progressive nurse requires is common sense, and a good constitution, and if "Edith's Mother" has provided her daughter with these two essentials, she may enter any well-organized hospital and return home the better for the experience.

THERE is a prevalent opinion, in nursing circles, that nurses who have not succeeded in other branches of their profession will do very well in small cottage hospitals, but this is a fallacy which needs to be exposed. The position of Matron of a cottage hospital is often one of great responsibility, and it needs a many-sided and competent woman to fill it adequately. To begin with, in a cottage hospital there is no resident medical officer, and therefore the Matron has, in cases of emergency, to act in this capacity; she must be a thoroughly trained nurse, and also an economical manager, if the funds are not to be wasted: she must possess tact, so that the relations of the staff may be harmonious; and she must be a thoroughly reliable and dependable woman, so that the Committee may be able to feel that the welfare of the institution and the patients is safe in her hands.

THE pity of it is that frequently the Committees of Cottage Hospitals do not offer a salary sufficiently large to attract a person with all the above qualifications. She can command a much higher one in other positions. The funds for the support of Cottage Hospitals are often collected with difficulty, and Committees do not always realise that good nursing is an expensive item. They find out, however, by experience, that to save on the nurses' salaries is false economy, as an indifferent or careless Matron will run up bills to an amount which would pay the salary of a competent Matron several times over.

ON the publication of articles in various contemporaries with regard to the Plaistow Maternity Home and Nursing Association, we wrote to the Secretary of the Home making inquiries as to the nursing qualifications of the Nurses who attend cases of illness in Plaistow. We understand from the Secretary, Mr. Pepyat Evans, that all the cases of serious illness to which we specially alluded were attended by nurses holding the certificate of a general hospital, as well as by pupils of the Home, and that all the midwifery cases were attended by fully qualified midwives, holding the certificate of the L.O.S., as well as by pupils of the Home.

FLORENCE PARKER, who had been employed as a nurse at the Mickleover Asylum, was recently

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