

for six months' training. At the end of that time she was required to pass an examination of the London Obstetrical Society, and she also obtained a certificate of efficiency in general district nursing from that Institution. Having obtained them the Association guaranteed her employment for a period of three years at a minimum wage of 12s. per week to start with. Their uniform was also provided. After three years had expired she was at liberty to pursue her calling in any place and on any terms she might think fit to take. She had thought it desirable to trouble them with those details in order that it should be fully understood that without any cost to the candidate the training provided by the Association furnished her with a means of livelihood, and when it was realised how greatly the demand for district nurses exceeded the supply, it was readily understood what an excellent career was opened for suitable women by means of these scholarships. At present there was a decided dearth of suitable candidates and she desired most strongly to urge upon those present to do all they could to assist the Association by bringing the advantages to which she had referred more prominently before any person they thought suitable for the training of a nurse, with a view of inducing them to make application for the scholarships."

Now there are many points of interest in these remarks. First of all the difficulty of getting suitable candidates to work under the present system, and can we wonder at it when we take into consideration the circumstances of the case? Fairly educated young women of high moral tone, such as are to be found amongst the daughters of artisans in our country villages, are hardly likely to consider a six months inefficient experience in district nursing, which includes a contract to work for three years as a cottage help, at a wage of 12s. a week and uniform, a very enticing prospect, especially when they quite realise the commercial value of their labour in other spheres.

As domestic servants these young women can easily command as cooks, ladies' maids, and parlour-maids, the 12s. a week, with a comfortable home and board in addition. If they wish to become nurses, they can enter many general hospitals and infirmaries where they can find excellent and thorough training, and a three years' certificate, which is of real value in their future work; or there are numerous other vocations of greater variety and freedom, and which command higher remuneration than 12s. a week. Indeed, the daily charwoman can command from 2s. to 3s. a day and board, both in town and country districts. Is it to be expected therefore that these valuable workers, in enormous demand as they are, especially for domestic service, will contract for work, for this pay, on which they cannot live in comfort or decency? We think not, and we feel sure that the sooner the County Nursing Associations organize their scheme for providing the sick poor with the necessary help and care on a more liberal basis the better.

VISCOUNT PEEL'S remarks, which referred to the cost of a trained District Nurse at £90 and £70 a year—by which we calculate the nurses would receive a salary little over £30 a year—as “very expensive,” would lead one to wonder what remuneration the titled and wealthy classes would consider just remuneration for the skilled, and experienced district nurse? And moreover, when he proceeded to remark that such a cottage help as described above, was “able to watch the state of a patient more closely than a much occupied doctor, and was able to report the progress of the ailment for which the patient was being treated,” the full significance of the danger of placing such responsibility in the hands of unskilled and ignorant women becomes apparent.

Mr. Marks, the Hon. Secretary, pointed out that 12s. was a small wage, but that the candidates “could not expect anybody to spend £50 fitting them with a profession, and then go straight out and earn full wages. They had got to realise that they must work cheaper for the persons who had provided them with the means of getting their living. Thirdly, at the end of three years they could go where they liked and earn what they could get.” Now, if £50 is paid by the County Nursing Associations, for the six months' work at Plaistow, or at any other “training institution,” we have no hesitation in saying that it is a wicked waste of public money. Surely Mr. Marks must be aware of the fact that this six months' experience and certificate is of absolutely no commercial value in the Nursing world, where for good remuneration there is keen competition between thoroughly trained three years' certificated nurses. If public money is to be expended in Nursing Scholarships—and an excellent suggestion it is—let the candidates get full value for the money—and not a most insufficient six months' experience and a bit of paper that isn't worth the ink inscribed on it, justice might then be done to both nurse and patient. At present both ask for bread and get a stone.

Queen Natalie.

QUEEN NATALIE, who spends the greater part of the year at Biarritz, has just given considerable satisfaction to the French people. She has assumed the presidency of the Society of Help to the wounded on Land and Sea at Bayonne. Usually the insignia of the Red Cross, the badge of office, is in silver. But an exception has been made in Queen Natalie's case. The insignia which was taken to the Sacchino Palace was in gold. It has the following subscription: “Gift offered to Her Majesty Queen Natalie by the Bayonne Committee.” The casket is of red morocco, lined with blue satin, and bears the Royal arms and the crown of the Queen of Servia.

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