

graduate hospital nurses, being trained by the superintendents in district work.

There are two nurses at Ottawa, the capital of Canada, a city of about 65,000 inhabitants. These have done excellent work, not only amongst the very poor, but amongst those who were able to pay from twopence half-penny to a shilling an hour for the service rendered them.

Another nurse is stationed at Kingston, Ontario, the seat of the Royal Military College of Canada, also a town of considerable size. There are three nurses in the far west, two of them at Vernon, in British Columbia, and one at Regina. One is at New Richmond, in the province of Quebec, an outlying country district where the patients are so widely separated that the nurse cannot visit them all on foot, but is obliged to drive on her daily rounds. A bicycle is of great assistance to a district nurse in summer; in winter the snow renders it useless, and the country roads are often too rough for it to be available.

Still, another nurse is at Baddeck, a village beautifully situated on the picturesque shore of the Great Bras d'Or, one of the curious inlets from the sea that almost bisect Cape Breton, the most easterly part of Nova Scotia. The inhabitants are principally of Scotch descent, and the Gaelic is still spoken by many of the older people. Money is not plentiful amongst them, and a trained nurse would be an undreamed-of good, as much out of their reach as an angel, were it not for the helpful services of the Victorian Order.

Both at Vernon and Regina, beside the district work, the nursing in small cottage hospitals is carried on by the Victorian nurses. What these refuges mean in time of illness to the young men on farms and ranches cannot be conceived except by those who are familiar with their surroundings. Living alone, or with one or two other young men, illness finds them totally unprepared, without the commonest appliances to make a sick room comfortable. There is no one to prepare proper food for them, nor even to make the bed, or change the linen with ease if the sufferer is helpless. The doctor is often a great many miles distant, and when he comes, after long hours of waiting, he can only prescribe, not stay to see his prescriptions carried out. His visits must, necessarily, be very infrequent, and, in his absence, the friends must do the best they can without advice.

What a blessing to the patient, and, in a less degree, to his comrades as well, to have such a place as the cottage hospital where he can be taken in and properly cared for. It must seem a haven of rest to many a homesick man, wearying in his weakness for the ministrations of his own people in this far country.

It is hoped, in time, that each training home in the rural districts may become the nucleus of a cottage hospital and have at least a few beds for emergency cases and accidents requiring surgical treatment and subsequent care.

Where cottage hospitals are already established, as, for instance, the one for the coal miners at Springhill Mines, in Nova Scotia, a natural home is provided for the district nurse, as soon as means can be found to maintain her. She can carry on her work at small expense with this as a head-quarters, and help to extend the benefits of the hospital while receiving aid from it.

Perhaps the most notable work as yet undertaken by the Victorian Order is the sending of nurses to the Klondike. As soon as the current of gold seekers began to set towards the new El Dorado, the wise prevision of the founder of the Order foresaw that nurses would be needed there.

The Canadian Government decided to send out troops to keep order among the rough population that naturally flocked to the gold-fields, and it was determined to take advantage of their escort for the nurses.

Devoted women offered themselves for the service, and four were chosen whose physical and mental qualifications seemed peculiarly to fit them for the task before them. That they have abundantly justified the confidence reposed in them is evident from the reports that have been received from and of them.

Two of the leading physicians of Dawson have written in terms of the highest praise of the work done by the nurses during the epidemic of typhoid fever, also of their services in the Police Hospital and their care of the miners in their own cabins. One of the nurses took the fever, but, happily, recovered. They bore the hardships of the journey and the rigors of the winter, arctic in severity, without breaking down under them. They brought the comfort of a good woman's presence, and the skilled touch of the trained nurse to those desolate sick beds where nearly every other comfort was lacking. Incidentally, they have shown to the world that the dangers and hardships men face without shrinking for the sake of gold, women, too, can endure unflinchingly for the sake of duty.

The work of the nurses in the older part of Canada during the first year of the existence of the Order, although, perhaps, less striking in its character, has not been less fruitful in its results. 7,807 visits were made, and twenty weeks of continuous nursing done beside in the four cities of Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, and Halifax. The reports of the nursing in the outlying districts have also been most gratifying.

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