

danger to the life of a maternity patient should she be visited in conjunction with the cases above described. Maternity patients cannot safely be attended by a general district nurse, and any nurse who accepts a position in which both duties are required of her is, in our opinion, blameworthy.

Again, it is obvious that in cases of infectious diseases, such as small-pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, chicken-pox, and measles, which frequently spread with great rapidity, the services of a trained nurse are of much value, both in regard to the skilled attention rendered to the patient, and also from the precautionary measures which she is able to take, whereby the spread of infection is prevented. But, here again, it is in the highest degree dangerous that a nurse should attend cases of infectious disease, and then go on to nurse other cases of a general nature. To the healthy she must be a source of infection, while those already debilitated by disease are almost certain to contract that conveyed by her garments, and, in such cases, the disease so conveyed will probably run an especially virulent course owing to the inability of resistance on the part of the patient to the poisonous germs.

It appears, therefore, that every district nursing association employing several nurses should appoint at least one to attend solely to the cases of infectious disease. If these can be removed to a hospital this course is undoubtedly best for the patient, and safest for the public. But in country districts, where no infectious hospital is available, the nurse should be isolated with the patient or patients. If a cottage could be procured and adapted for the nursing of infectious cases, the difficulty of caring for infectious cases in small towns would probably be best met.

It follows that considerable classification of district cases must be adopted if they are to be nursed in the best way, and that, consequently in many instances the staff of nurses employed must be increased. We commend this point to the attention of district nursing committees, and also to the public, because such classification and organization is often largely a question of funds. Skilled nursing commands good salaries, a fact which is not always realized, and it is obvious that either District Nurses must be adequately paid, or Committees must recognize that the appointments they offer will not attract the best qualified nurses.

Annotations.

SHIPS FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

THE establishment of open-air sanatoria for the treatment of phthisis has been followed by such beneficial and successful results that already consumption is recognized as a curable disease. The life-giving properties of pure air and sunshine have been abundantly proved, and patients have, by a course of open air treatment, been so completely restored to health as to be able to resume their daily work. It follows that the greater amount of fresh air obtainable the better, and there was a basis of common sense, and a glimmering of present-day scientific knowledge in the sea voyage prescribed in bygone days. Where this failed was in the fact that sick persons were obliged to travel by ships in no way constructed with regard to their needs. The good of the voyage was counteracted frequently by the discomforts involved, and, further, the patients by no means received the benefits which they might have obtained during a voyage under suitable circumstances. They remained in close cabins, perhaps for twenty-four hours round, the very worst environment for themselves, and they were undoubtedly a source of infection to their fellow-travellers.

But, though the sea voyage of the past has to a great extent fallen into disrepute there is no reason why, under suitable circumstances it should not be of the greatest possible value. At sea the air is ideally pure, and in a conveniently constructed hospital ship, which could make its way to the "sunny south" where it might cruise about, or be anchored in a harbour, the patients could not only enjoy the sea air by day, but could sleep under awnings, in the open air by night. Such ships should have the cabins for the accommodation of patients constructed on the deck, they should carry an adequate staff of medical men and nurses, and in all respects should be appointed as well-organized hospitals. Under these conditions we can conceive no pleasanter, or more beneficial, treatment for delicate chests. And, by the way, now that the need for abundant fresh air in the treatment of phthisis has been so convincingly demonstrated, surely the "consumptive" hospitals in the heart of London, and other large cities, will shortly become things of the past. What could be better for London consumptives than a course of treatment on a hospital ship anchored, for instance, off

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