

The American Nursing World.

OPENINGS FOR NURSES.*

By Miss E. R. Scovill.

As the ranks of the nursing profession are filled constantly with new recruits from the many training schools scattered over the land, the question of employment for them becomes one of pressing importance.

PRIVATE NURSING.

Private nursing is the goal of most of these and probably will always occupy the larger number, and it is to its development and extension that we must look for occupation for the majority of trained nurses.

The time is fast coming when we shall have to readjust our ideas as to the remuneration of nursing service, which at present places the employment of a private trained nurse beyond the means of any but the comparatively wealthy in the community. Twenty or twenty-five dollars a week is more than the average bread winner earns in a week, and it is manifestly out of the question for him or her to pay this sum for a nurse when illness incapacitates him from earning anything at all.

Large cities usually have an oversupply of nurses. There is a better opening for the newly graduated nurse in the country town where the field is not as fully occupied.

If she has no connections in a place like this she should obtain introductions from one of the hospital physicians, or some other medical man who can certify to her good work, and with these visit the doctors of the town she has selected and ask them for work. She may have to wait for a time for an opportunity, but if she is skilful and trustworthy she will eventually build up a remunerative practice. This is essentially true if she will devote herself to obstetric cases, as there is always a demand for the services of a thoroughly satisfactory obstetric nurse.

VISITING NURSING.

If a woman wishes to remain in a large city she may take up what has been called co-operative nursing and become a visiting nurse.

There are people living in apartments, or staying at hotels, or even in their own homes, when the means are limited, who do not require, or cannot afford, the exclusive attention of a nurse. There are special services such as douching, catheterizing, attending to surgical dressings, giving sponge baths or medicated baths, attendance during an operation, which require only a stated time for their performance. Many

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persons are glad to be able to obtain a nurse for the limited time required and not be obliged to board and lodge her during the hours when she is not needed, in order to have her at hand when she is. This system is particularly suited to the care of chronic invalids who require skilled service for a short time only each day. The prices charged by one visiting nurse are as follows: Obstetrical cases, six hours or less, \$3.00; surgical and obstetrical dressings, twice daily, \$10.00 per week; general cases \$1.00 per hour.

Cards having the prices charged, with the nurse's name and address, should be distributed to the doctors, placed in drug stores, hotels and boarding houses, and brought before the public in any other way the nurse can devise.

ORDINARY OPENINGS.

It is only necessary to mention briefly the ordinary openings for the graduate nurse.

District nursing, in which the pay is about \$50.00 per month or \$30.00 with board and lodging included.

Hospital service in various departments which commands salaries as varied as the service rendered, from superintending hospitals and training schools to the headship of a ward. Service in asylums and sanitariums may be grouped under this head. It is treated at length in papers following mine.

Infirmiry Work. Many large private schools and some colleges have infirmaries attached to them with a trained nurse in charge who cares for the ordinary cases of illness amongst the students and has assistants in time of need. These positions are particularly desirable because the long vacations give an opportunity for recuperation, or if the nurse desires for further work in her profession, or for additional hospital work, to keep herself abreast of the times.

Office Work. Many physicians and surgeons and a few dental surgeons employ trained nurses in their offices in the preparation of patients for examination, for minor operations and for the administration of anæsthetics, and to keep the instruments in the perfect order that is essential to their usefulness. This service is usually well paid. A knowledge of stenography and type-writing is very useful, as the nurse is often required to write letters from dictation. If she can add bookkeeping to this, she increases the likelihood of her obtaining a good position.

PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

If a nurse has a little capital and is a woman of executive ability, she may find her opening in the establishment of a private hospital.

Many persons who are able to pay for treatment

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