

sick from the care of "such women" she advocates the employment of nurses or probationers who are able to do all that is necessary, and she discusses and dismisses the question of the injustice of offering training to probationers in institutions which are in no sense training schools, in the following manner:— If probationers are foolish enough to enter institutions without full inquiry beforehand they have only themselves to blame if they suffer. It is greatly to be regretted that a Poor Law guardian should stand convicted by her own pen of such a lack of public responsibility.

Dr. C. F. Bryan, the Medical Officer to the Leicester Workhouse Infirmary, says that the Infirmary affords thorough experience in medical nursing and midwifery, and also some surgical work; that lectures and practical instruction have been regularly given to the nurses, who have greatly benefited, and consequently the care of the patients has greatly improved, and much suffering has been alleviated, many cases showing a much more rapid improvement. It is deeply to be deplored, when a medical officer is desirous of furthering the better education of the nurses and is able to point to good results, that by desire of the Guardians these lectures are to be discontinued.

The danger of the spread of infection by convalescents from scarlet fever, presumably considered free from infection, has been recently brought to our notice on three separate occasions, and it would appear that there is need for the establishment of homes where convalescents can be received until their freedom from infection is a matter of certainty.

Two of these cases have already been referred to in this journal. In the first, a child sent out of a fever hospital in Yorkshire, conveyed infection to two members of a household in Westmorland. In the second, a patient was sent out of the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital in a verminous condition, and two of her sisters subsequently contracted scarlet fever. In yet a third, scarlet fever patients were removed from the High School for Girls, Carmarthen, to Llanstephen, on the responsibility of the medical man in charge, and therefore, no doubt, believed free from infection. It is asserted, however, that these girls subsequently went into the post-office at Llanstephen while still peeling, and that the infection of other persons resulted.

There is no doubt that when there is reasonable ground to suppose that scarlet fever cases are free from infection it is desirable that they should be removed from a hospital or sick-room atmosphere in order to accelerate their convalescence. At the same time, the above cases abundantly prove that there is often grave danger to others if patients are sent direct from infected quarters to their own homes, and that the risk to young and delicate children is considerable. It appears to us that

half-way houses are needed in which convalescents can be received until their freedom from infection is unquestionable. At the same time, in at least two of the three cases referred to there was clear proof of neglect of ordinary precautions as nurses understand them. In one, the child was changed from his infected to clean clothes without any bath being given, and then allowed to visit patients in the ward; and, in the other, a patient of fourteen deposed that he was set by the nurse to bathe patients who otherwise went unwashed. We do not hear of the conveyance of infection by the thousands of cases discharged from the hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board who go straight to their own homes, and we are therefore forced to the conclusion that when infection is carried it is, as a rule, due to perfunctory disinfection.

Another point with regard to disinfection which deserves the attention of sanitary authorities is that at present there are no homes where private nurses can disinfect or go into quarantine after nursing infectious cases; consequently they return either to nursing institutions or clubs, and share the same sitting and dining rooms with other nurses who may at any moment be called out to maternity or other cases, or they go to their own lodgings, where, as a rule, the facilities for thorough disinfection are few. There is need of central homes where nurses can go into quarantine, and where they can be provided with means for disinfecting both themselves and their clothes.

Miss Virginia Pope has a hospital and boarding-house in New York for sick birds and those whose owners are away. Miss Pope opened her sanitarium about three years ago. She has been obliged to increase her accommodation until now she has several rooms. The largest is given over to the boarders. Everyone who has kept birds knows how easily they become ill, and how hard it is to cure them. Owing to injudicious treatment and the artificial circumstances of their lives, birds are subject to many ailments, the most prevalent being asthma and various forms of heart disease, for birds have very sensitive organisations and their nerves are easily shocked. One of Miss Pope's devices for making her patients comfortable is ingenious. When in good health, birds that are really tame and used to petting love to be held in the hand, but when such birds are ill they consider that they should be continually held. As that is impossible, Miss Pope fills a rubber glove with hair, keeps it warm with heated air, and lays the sick bird in the palm of the glove. The bird fondly imagines itself held by its kind doctor, and goes confidently to sleep. Last summer Miss Pope had 500 pets placed in her charge for the season, and her hospital is constantly in use.

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