effort on the ungrateful one's behalf. He added that the nurses who were leaving merited all that could be said in praise of their whole-hearted service, and that now, when, at the end of more than seven years' service, Sister Cheatham required rest and change, the nurses wished her to regard the clock as a small token of their esteem and a memento of the occasion. Mr. Sattin, master of the workhouse, endorsed Dr. Galbraith's remarks, and greatly regretted that the infirmary should lose three such valuable nurses in so short a time.

The report of the Executive Committee of the Norfolk District and Cottage Federation showed that the expenditure of the Society had exceeded its income during the past year by £106 13s. 9d. In regard to the work the Committee says:—"Difficulties there must always be in working a system of nursing in villages where there is often no one able to subscribe more than a small sum, and where cottages are often too small for the family living in them; but the Committee, after four years of work, are more than ever convinced of the need of nurses in country villages, that they are doing their best to supply. Unless, however, the income of the Federation can be increased, its work cannot be expected to progress."

The need of nurses for country villages is undoubted, but we do not think it is to be met by employing women with a partial training because their services can be obtained more cheaply than those of thoroughly qualified nurses. As in the case of medical assistance, there should be the same minimum standard of efficiency for those who care for the poor as in those who care for the rich. We have always held, therefore, that the solution of the nursing of country villages is to strengthen the work of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute so that the services of fully-qualified nurses may be available for the poor, not by organising associations of women with a few months' training, as is, unfortunately, too often the method adopted by Country Nursing Associations.

Years ago there was a legend amongst midwives, which we thought with the greater particularity of coroners had long since died a natural death, that a midwife was permitted to give a certificate of the death of an infant which had not lived twenty-four hours. It used even to be asserted that it was permissible in such cases to give a certificate of still-birth, on what grounds we have never been able to discover. At a recent inquest held by Mr. Aitkin, the City Coroner for Manchester, in connection with the accidental suffocation of the infant son of a Mrs. Wilson, the mother said that six of her other children, though living for periods up to ten hours, had been certified for burial by the midwife. Inspector Mattinson stated that Mrs. Donoghue, a midwife, told him she thought her position as a midwife entitled her to give a certificate of still-birth, providing the child died within twenty-four hours of its birth. Mrs. Donoghue said the officer had misunderstood her. What she meant to say was that "she never gave any certificates for children born alive, but if a child lived for less than twenty-four hours she was always taught she was right to give a certificate to the registrar." The Coroner informed Mrs. Donoghue that she would have an opportunity of explaining her conduct to the magistrates.

The practice of certifying children who have lived, as still-born is, of course, absolutely unjustifiable, and opens a wide door to the perpetration of crime. The remedy is to be found in the compulsory registration of all still-births.

Miss Ruth Brewster Sherman, a contributor to the *American Journal of Nursing*, makes the following interesting observations on "Abbé Gregoire on Nursing":—

"Some philosopher has said that however well we may know the history and outcome of any reform, we cannot fully understand it until we discover its original inspiration. From Mrs. Fenwick's article, 'The Evolution of the Trained Nurse,' in the *Outlook* for January, 1900, from Dr. Ferguson's papers with the same title in the *Journal* for April, May, and June, 1901, and from the addresses published in the *Journal* during and since the last International Congress of Nurses, even the youngest probationer can have ample information concerning the beginning and growth of nursing; but it was just while the Congress was in session that I found, not, indeed, the 'original inspiration,' but what is certainly an interesting proof of the need, the faith and the hope which underlay the venture of training women for the care of the sick.

"In 1820—sixteen years before Frederica Fliedner opened the school at Kaiserswerth and the very year that Florence Nightingale was born—Abbé Gregoire's pamphlet on nursing was printed. It is noteworthy that this should have come from France, which is now in the rear of civilised countries in the care of the sick. The text of this essay, if extant, is very rare, but in the *Christian Observer* for August, 1820, is the review of its contents, and, believing that this will be interesting to all readers of the *Journal*, I give an exact copy of this article, which was printed in England and America nearly a century ago, while the Fliedners were in their early maturity and sixteen years before they were destined to make the first practical trial of its theories:—

"'The benevolent ex-bishop of Blois, whose zealous exertions in so many other departments of philanthropy are well known, has recently printed

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