

"I venture to think that it may be possible to harmonise the two systems by combining them. No parish or part of London ought to be out of reach of a centre of undenominational highly-skilled nursing, towards the expenses of which those who would draw on its service might be expected to contribute, while beyond this there would be room for partially-skilled women employed locally in connection with religious or charitable work, to whatever extent they could be provided. There need be no clashing, since in each particular case it would be for the doctor to decide as to what degree of nursing skill was essential; and co-operation might even be possible between the more professional and less professional, especially in cases when the home care was very deficient. As doctor leans on nurse, so might the nurse who could come in only once in the day lean on the assistance of her who lived near, and each might learn something from the other.

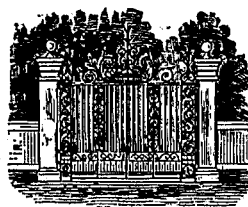
"Of all the forms that charity takes, there is hardly one that is so directly successful as district nursing. It is almost true to say that wherever a nurse enters, the standard of life is raised."

It is gratifying to record this high tribute of praise to the work of nurses on the part of so great an authority on social influences as Mr. Charles Booth. His idea that, while highly-skilled nurses should be in reach of everyone, there is also room for the work of women less skilled in the homes of the poor is, no doubt, a sound one. Only it must be clearly understood that such women are in no sense trained nurses, because to regard them as such would be at once to lower the standard of nursing education and the status of the trained nurse. The most urgent need of the nursing profession at the present time is the definition by authority of what constitutes the minimum curriculum of education which must be passed through by a woman before she is entitled to call herself a trained nurse, with the legal registration of those who can prove that they have attained to this standard. When order is thus evolved out of chaos, and the term "trained nurse" has a definite meaning, the useful help will naturally fall into her proper place, and can afford valued assistance to the district nurse. For instance, if the patient's room is clean and tidy, fresh linen airing at the fire, and the kettle boiling on the nurse's arrival, much valuable time is saved, and she can proceed at once with her purely professional duties. It is when the woman with some very elementary knowledge of nursing assumes the title of trained nurse, which she is not, instead of being content with that of useful help, which she is, that she becomes a danger to the community.

Dealing with that pressing subject, the housing of the poor, concerning which we have here only space for a brief reference, Mr. Booth points to the work of Miss Octavia Hill, and those who, like Miss Cons, have been trained by her or inspired by her example. It is not, he says, to philanthropic sentiment that Miss Hill appeals, but to duty. Her plan is to improve the personal relations that can be based on the collecting of rent, by fully recognising the duties of the landlord to the tenant, while insisting on the performance of the latter's obligations. An essential feature of the scheme is the training of educated women as rent collectors, and on careful superintendence, for this work, like nursing, is best done by women, and cannot, any more than nursing, be carried on by amateurs.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Princess Charles of Denmark has accepted from Messrs. F. & R. Speaight, the child photographers, a copy of their publication "Baby's Album," copies of which are already possessed by the Princess of Wales and the Duchesses of Fife and Teck.

Plans have been drawn up for a new Ladies' Club which is to be opened in October, near the Marble Arch, under the name of the Arachne Club. The moving spirits are Lady Alice Houbton and Miss Agatha Henslow. The latter lady will act as secretary, and intending applicants can obtain full information from her at 73, Upper Berkeley Street, W. One of the objects of the Club is to raise the standard of domestic work, and it will undertake the thorough teaching of the art of earning their living to gentlewomen. The Club is to be staffed almost entirely by experienced lady servants, who will teach the pupils. The training in house work will last for three months, and that in cooking for six. Needlework, dress-making, and cutting out will also be taught. A certificate will be granted at the conclusion of the course to those pupils who are able to pass an examination. The uniform dresses to be worn by the domestic staff of the Club, both teachers and pupils, will be of old rose cotton in the morning, and of the same colour in alpaca in the afternoon.

The Duchess of Bedford, who, even more than the Duke, is a lover of animals, says *T.A.T.*, has many pets among the collection at Woburn Abbey. One of the most eminent of these is a tiny pony, not 3 ft. high, which she has herself trained from very early youth. This little creature is as tame as a dog, and runs about with his mistress everywhere she goes. The Duchess rarely misses paying a daily visit to the hospital which she has had erected for the Woburn villagers, and she is always accompanied by her pet pony, greatly to the delight of the small invalids in the hospital, who love to see him rub his feet on the door-mat before entering—a clever trick taught him by the Duchess.

It is reported that the *Fronde*, which for some years has been published in Paris, under the editorship of Mme. Durrand, and of which women have composed the entire staff, has published its last number. There is a hint of financial difficulty. It is sad to record that yet another woman's paper has "gone under." Until women realise the power of the Press, and accord support to those papers which consistently advance their interests, so long will they have to endure preventable ills, and so long will they be unable to achieve the best work in the interest of the community. The supreme importance of co-operation, and of representation in the Press, are lessons which women are slow to take to heart. But we shall have to learn them, if not willingly, then at the cost of suffering, before we make real progress.

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