

sufferings of these poor people in times of sickness, in childbirth, and during epidemics caused by the neglect, through ignorance, of the simplest precautions. Second, as a civilising and educating influence, which shall do something towards raising the standard of living in these districts, the lowness of which constantly hampers the efforts and projects which have been initiated and carried out by the Congested Districts Boards and other beneficial institutions during the past fifteen years. The accounts of the Fund are kept and the necessary disbursements made by Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses through their London office at 120, Victoria Street.

That the work of the nurses is appreciated is evident from the following testimony of the Rev. J. Browne, P.P., Glengarriff, which, we are told, has in substance been expressed by a dozen other writers. He says: "The visit of the nurse is hailed with delight, and her influence for good is not confined to the homes of the sick—her example is educating and refining the whole district."

Many qualities in addition to nursing skill are requisite in every nurse; in none is a higher standard necessary than in these pioneer workers amongst the very poorest districts in Ireland. Their position is isolated, lonely and responsible, and their work essentially one of education as well as healing. It was once said by the vicar of an English parish, after five years of work by a district nurse, that she had "raised the level of the whole parish both physically and spiritually"—a splendid testimony both to the possibilities of district nursing and to the work of the individual nurse.

The Superintendents of training-schools to-day, in the selection of candidates for training, have an enormous responsibility, for on the wisdom of their choice depends the power for good of the nursing profession in the future.

Legal Matters.

CHARGE OF THEFT AGAINST A NURSE.

A case which excited considerable local interest was that of Millicent Gwendoline Mary Whawell, for some time district nurse at Ness, Lewis, who was apprehended at Wigan by the Lancashire police, and brought back to Stornoway on account of certain charges of alleged theft and fraud.

The accusations against her were that she engaged rooms for twelve weeks at £1 12s. 6d., and agreed to pay the landlady £6 8s. 6d. for her board when she received her salary, and that when she did receive it she left the district hurriedly, and so defrauded the landlady. There were also two charges of theft of trifling articles. The nurse pleaded not guilty, and on the first charge the Sheriff found her not guilty on all counts. She was the nurse appointed by the Parish Council, and as nurse entered into possession of the rooms occupied by her predecessor and paid for by the Council. With regard to the charge of the appropriation of tray-cloths, which had since been returned to the owner, the Sheriff found it a clear case of theft. He extended to the nurse the benefit of the First Offenders Act, binding her over to be of good behaviour for six months.

The Nursing System of Italian Hospitals.

By Miss L. L. Dook.

(Continued from p. 356.)

In a recent issue I gave some account of the nursing system of Italy and tried to show its mediæval character and the difficulties in the way of modern nursing reforms. This week I shall try to give your readers an outline of what is being done along modern lines, and of the personalities of several nurses, who, realising the urgent need of improvement, are labouring, each in her own way, to bring about a more enlightened system of nursing and a more rational environment for the nurse.

These modern nurses seem no less admirable than the reformers of the middle ages. The patience, courage, and love of humanity are as great as those of the saints, and their health is better. If they are not canonised some day, at least they deserve to be.

In Florence, there is Miss Turton; in Rome, Signora Celli; in Naples, Miss Baxter. Then there are Miss Tonino and others of Miss Baxter's graduates.

Miss Turton was the pioneer in Italy. She is English, but through long residence has devoted herself to Italy. For quite a long period of years she has been striving to educate, planting seeds, getting things started, working in hospital herself, and leavening her public with the ideas of an educated and intelligent nursing service.

To revolutionise such a system as one finds in Italy, which has been supreme for a thousand years, is not done as easily as were hospital reforms in England and America, though these were difficult enough, and Miss Turton, believing—as I think, wisely—that it would be fatal to antagonise the existing order, has sought to graft the new on to the old and to introduce new ideas and methods gradually by obtaining permission from the nuns to have pupil-nurses enter the wards and pass through a course of practical work under her own and the physicians' supervision.

It seems altogether probable that in no other way could a beginning have been made—especially as no demands had come from the medical profession for a change. Had they been dissatisfied, as in France, the question might have been different, but here, with no professional or popular discontent with hospital methods, it is hardly conceivable that with less tact, or with more aggressiveness, it would have been possible to gain the foothold which was all-important at the outset.

Miss Turton, having made and held her point of vantage, and being directly occupied in Florence, saw the opportunity of securing wards in Naples, interested the right people, and sent for Miss Baxter,

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