

of the sixty-five cases of consumption which she saw during her first three months of visiting nursing, thirty-eight have been willing to follow tolerably faithfully, to their own great advantage, a correct regime of life. And when one considers that many of these sixty-five patients were utterly hopeless cases, almost too ill to appreciate the value of any measures, this number is a very encouraging proportion. If in the first three months of this new work somewhat more than one-half of those approached were ready to adopt its provisions and follow its precepts, scarcely more could be asked, and, as the work progresses, the proportion is sure to increase.

The number of out-door clinics, exclusively for tuberculosis patients, each with its one or more visiting nurses, is growing day by day. Baltimore at present has two, Boston two, Minneapolis two, Philadelphia two, New York at least five, Paris two or three. The work has but just begun; in another year or more there will scarcely be a large city anywhere without at least one. In the smaller cities the outdoor clinic and visiting nurse need not be devoted exclusively to tuberculous patients, but they should be so organised and instructed that those with tuberculosis should be immediately recognised as such, and should receive the proper attention and treatment, the nurse looking to it that she understands fully her responsibilities and opportunities in visiting these patients and their families.

This is but one of the departments of work in which you may find pleasure and profit in your calling. Whether you turn to it or to the other more usual channels of service, I beg you take with you the high ideal of duty which you have had instilled into your minds while living within these hospital walls; ideals which, if followed, will lead you to true success, for you will have in your hearts the consciousness of doing well whatever is before you."

### The Passing Bell.

A sad fatality is reported from Hastings. Last week the body of Miss May Chetwynd, a trained nurse, who had been staying at Rocklands, East Hill, was found under the cliffs at Ecclesbourne.

The deceased nurse appears, as far as can be gathered, to have left the house where she was staying, in company with a friend and a little Scotch terrier, but about tea-time the friend returned alone, saying Miss Chetwynd had expressed her intention of continuing her walk by herself.

About half-past seven the little dog who accompanied the nurse, returned without her, and fears were at once entertained of her safety. A search of the hills was made, and the Coastguard were also notified, with the result that her body was found under the cliffs.

### Thoughts on the Final Training of District Probationers.

By Miss M. LOANE,

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(Concluded from page 371.)

A few words on a rather delicate point may not be out of place—the original social position of the large majority of district probationers. There are those who think it of the first importance, if not a *sine qua non*, that these women should all be ladies by birth, education, and association. I will not enter into a question so open to dispute; I will merely say that recent statistics show us that this ideal is impossible of realisation. Among every 100,000 of the population of the United Kingdom, 450 persons only belong to the professional and aristocratic classes, and this calculation includes, I believe, all land-owners above the rank of peasant proprietors. Of these 450, at least 220 are males. Half of the remaining 230 are girls under 20 years of age. Of the remaining 115, I suppose that at least one-third are over 55 years of age. This leaves us about 78. Of these 78 at least two-thirds are married. This leaves about 26. Of these 26 women probably 6 are neither obliged to earn their own living nor feel any desire to do so. We have then about 20 women between the ages of 20 and 55 who might conceivably act as district nurses. But of these 20 women several are urgently needed at home, and probably at least one is not needed anywhere; some are too young to have received any training, and some are incapable of hard physical work. Suppose we say there are still 14 or 15 available for work outside their own homes, just consider among how many professions they are divided! Some are authors and journalists, some lecturers, some governesses, some doctors, some secretaries. Some, we know, are nurses, but how many branches of the profession there are, and several of them undeniably more attractive to women of good social position than district nursing can ever hope to be. The marvel is if at the end of our calculation we can still find three or four ladies left to work as district nurses among every hundred thousand of the population.

Small in number, this remnant should yet be weighty in influence, and the whole tone of the association perceptibly and favourably affected by them. Their ideas of honour, gentle consideration, reverence for age, tolerance, and conscientiousness should permeate the work in every detail. I think, therefore, that, instead of rejoicing to hear that at this or that nurses' home the inmates are "all ladies," we ought to regret it, knowing that their much-needed influence should have been diffused, not concentrated. If there is any real vitality in the result of gentle birth and breeding, it will act

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