

county, and are, with few exceptions, distinctly above the cottager class. They are usually trained at Plaistow, and must all be registered midwives, that is their primary duty—the maternity work of rural England. . . . But there is a danger that as midwives pure and simple they may drift into being considered the nurse of the district, with no further experience. . . . Therefore they receive regular instruction in home nursing. . . . They often go on for full training, and the nursing world is the richer for these tried and tested workers.

An association employing village nurses usually works on the provident system.

There are the two classes of nurses (the fully-trained Queen's Nurse and the Village Nurse), but the keystone of the arch is the County Superintendent. She must be a fully-qualified Queen's Nurse, and one with knowledge of men and manners also. She not only is responsible for the supervision of the nurses working in affiliation with the County Association, but on her falls the organisation of the work generally under the County Committee.

She selects and recommends local candidates for training, she finds Queen's Nurses as required, she visits and explains the work to places wishing to start an Association, and advises as to the sort of nurse needed, &c. . . . She keeps a Register of all work done in the county, furnishes reports to the Queen's Institute, receives monthly reports from all nurses, she visits the fully-trained nurses from time to time, and the village nurses at intervals of a month at least, seeing their cases, going over their books, seeing the local secretary.

This is the outline of the work of County Associations. The fully-trained Queen's Nurses take their full share of the work, but the village nurses complete the circle, filling a place that other nurses do not touch.

I trust I have laid sufficient emphasis on the importance and possibilities of rural district nursing to make it plain that it is work above, rather than below the average nursing standard.

Its responsibilities call for women who can rise to these claims. It is an opening for those who are rather set aside in the rush of hospital training where smartness and quickness are absolute essentials of ward success. We need the women who can go on steadily, if rather more slowly, day after day, in rain and sunshine, in fair and foul weather, rendering nursing services in the best possible way, doing all that can be for their patients, and yet with the adaptability and sympathy that enters into the lives of the people, and can aid and help them in health as well as in sickness.

Will not the Matrons and Sisters of your hospitals bear the needs of the patients in their own homes in mind, and direct the thoughts of those they are training to the valuable opportunities that await them in district nursing?

Worldly Wisdom.

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It is unfortunate that the term "worldly wisdom" should, in the language of logicians, connote, or mark along with it, several undesirable qualities; for "worldly wisdom" contains an incomparably larger number of worthy elements, and there is no one expression that so well sums up and includes them. The desirable elements are tact, good manners, prudence, foresight, zeal, industry, tolerance, moderation, honesty, enterprise, initiative, cheerful patience, wise reticence, generosity in all senses of the word, and sound business habits.

In dealing with young probationers, especially those of original mind, strong character, and bold and generous disposition, it is often distressing to foresee the opposition they will meet with, the needless antagonism they will stir up, the waste of bodily and spiritual strength that will ensue, simply because they lack a few of the necessary qualities implied in worldly wisdom. Formal teaching seems of little immediate use; but knowing how soon they will pass away from our anxious attempts to inculcate some of the wisdom of the serpent, it is difficult to refrain from trying to draw up precepts which may lodge in their memory and some day have useful influence over their actions. Coming after Polonius, the Countess of Rousillon, and a few others, the aphoristic form may seem daringly pretentious, but it was chosen because it is a form that sometimes sticks in the memory when a smoothly-finished essay glides over the surface of the mind without finding an entrance.

1. A woman who always talks of herself is shunned as a bore; a woman who always talks of other people is marked as a busybody; a woman who always chooses impersonal subjects of conversation is detested as a prig and a pedant. What tea merchants call "a useful family blend" may be made of one part of the first to four parts of the second, and fifteen of the third.

2. If you wish to enjoy the advantages of reticence without its unpopularity, tell everyone where you bought your new hat, and how much you paid for it, and what you are going to have for dinner to-day, and why you did not have it yesterday. You will be considered a most open-hearted person, and your private affairs will be as safe from intrusion as if they did not exist.

3. Never quarrel with your relatives and make complaints of them to your acquaintances. If you *must* quarrel—and some of us are born fighters, just as others are born doormats—quarrel with your acquaintances and complain to your relatives.

4. If you hear anything very extraordinary, you may be tolerably certain that it is not true, and many things not extraordinary are also untrue.

5. If a man betrays another's confidence to you,

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