

instead of fuller, if with each change, you throw from you all that was of interest to you in the past."

We know a dozen nurses married to thriving London doctors who never take the slightest interest in the proceedings or members of their former profession. Surely, a somewhat selfish policy. How differently men cling to professional associations and old chums!

Many people who appreciate the value of skilled care in quiet surroundings may be glad to know that Miss Hurlston, who holds the certificate of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and has had much experience in the care of private patients on the staff of the Registered Nurses' Society, receives invalids requiring rest and care at Caldecote Rectory, Cambridge, a quiet healthy country house, pleasantly situated on a hill in a large shady garden. The terms charged are from three to seven guineas a week, according to the nursing required. Massage is given if necessary at a charge of two guineas a week.

A drawing-room meeting was held recently at the Deanery, Norwich, by the invitation of the Dean, and Mrs. Lefroy, in support of the Norwich District Nursing Association. The Mayor, in opening the proceedings suggested that the best way of placing such an institution on a firm and permanent basis was to place it on a provident foundation. The working classes could not afford to pay a resident nurse, nor to find proper accommodation for her in their homes; at the same time, if they realised the importance of the subject he was of opinion that they would desire to make provision for themselves to secure skilled nursing in time of illness. A satisfactory provident scheme would benefit even the poorest, for there were very few who could not afford the small contribution necessary. The services of a trained nurse could be obtained for an inclusive sum of from £80 to £100 per year, so that 2,000 members subscribing 1s. per year would be able to maintain one nurse, and in comparatively large centres one nurse would be sufficient for this membership, except in times of epidemic, and then assistance could be obtained.

Miss Curtis, Superintendent of the Queen's District Nurses in Hammersmith and Fulham, gave an interesting account of how the difficulty of raising sufficient income to meet a steadily increasing amount of work had been met in that district. Little collecting books were started containing a short printed account of the nurses' work. Many poor people could easily spare a penny a week, and in this way an army of some fifty or sixty collectors secured about £120 last year. The incoming of the books was made the occasion of a

social gathering, at which each collector was made to feel that he or she had a real share in the work.

*Our Hospitals and Charities* is the most daintily got up of all the philanthropic magazines, and contains excellent matter. This month we learn from its columns, which are so well illustrated, something of the romance of the ambulance in Italy.

The Brothers of the Misericordia in Florence are a religious society whose members are drawn from all ranks of society, and who pledge themselves to help the poor and the sick by day or night and, in cases of sudden death, to provide a Christian burial. The members live in their own houses, but are bound to obey the summons of a bell when their services are required. When on duty the Brothers wear a long black dress and a hood covering the face, with two holes for the eyes. In this garb they may often be seen rendering assistance of all kinds, bearing the sick to the hospital, the dead to the mortuary chapel, or helping actively in case of accidents or fires. In the time of the cholera visitation in 1855 the Brotherhood behaved heroically. In their work they divide the city into districts, and the members into days or *giornate*, about forty being on duty every day under a leader, who must be implicitly obeyed. When the cathedral bell sounds, the workers must come within half an hour, leaving whatever pursuit they are engaged in. It is said that a certain Grand Duke would leave his table quietly to obey the summons. The Brethren may not accept any payment whatever beyond a cup of cold water. This wonderful society was established about 1244 from a fund arising from fines for profane swearing which the workmen of the cloth manufactories imposed upon themselves. Other citizens joined for mutual help and succour, until, in the course of centuries, the Brotherhood has reached its present form. Florence would be badly off without her Fatebenefratelli.

One of numerous invitations we deeply regret being unable to accept came this week from the trustees and officers of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training-School for Nurses, to be present at the graduating exercises of the Class of 1905, consisting of thirty-nine graduates, who receive their diplomas after a term of three years' training in that famous school. It is interesting to note that nine of these nurses are Canadians, and, indeed, in all the leading hospitals in the States are to be found the cream of Canadian womanhood availing themselves of the great educational advantages provided in American institutions.

The *Australasian Nurses' Journal*, issued quarterly, is proving inadequate to meet the needs of the rapidly extending influence of the Association. A proposal is being considered to make it into a monthly magazine.

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