tionship of a family to the community and the effect of example on other families in the neighbourhood; that persons who have had special training in special lines do not understand what a thorough investigation of conditions means; that in the case of district nurses they come to the work when they have not been long out of the training-school, they have had a fine training, and are full of splendid enthusiasm, but have had little experience in the world. They have not studied the aims and the methods of others, so that when they step out of their own professional sphere their efforts to relieve often give a setback to the efforts of others who have had longer experience." Following up this thought, he adds: "Nurses should be taught to understand what thorough investigation means, its scope and its value, that they might give as much support and sympathy as they can to trained workers."

There is probably among district nurses an intelligent appreciation of this condition, as Mr. Glenn reviews it. Just how to provide a remedy that can be made uniform throughout is a matter for liberal discussion.

If we accept the broad and liberal interpretation of district nursing, it would seem that the successful nurse should possess a high standard of qualification. She would need to be a woman broad in education and experience, with a power of observation, elastic enough to cover the question as a whole, and possessing a spirit of liberal compromise. The nature of the work will often carry her into the field of other workers, where she will require clear judgment and discernment to keep the line well defined between her work and theirs. She cannot afford to overstep it, for experience proves to us again and again that when a district nurse carries material relief or institutes regular investigations her influence in that particular family is greatly hampered. It is difficult to define just where the loss is. It is a something almost intangible, but it becomes keenly apparent to the thoughtful nurse. When the family fully understands that as a nurse she has nothing to give except her professional skill and womanly sympathy, they quickly learn to accept her at her own valuation without question of further gain.

To stand in this near relation to all branches of social work without intruding upon or compromising her own high standard must necessitate, as Mr. Glenn points out, some knowledge of the work as a whole.

Up to this time there has been no definite plan by which nurses could obtain a broad insight into philanthropic aims and methods. What knowledge we possess has been acquired through hard experience and in the few hard hours snatched from a crowded round of duties, and it has proven very inadequate.

If district nursing is to assume the dignity of a specialty, could not a certain amount of preliminary social training be required? The suggestion is not a new one, it has been made by our leaders in nursing at some of the recent noted meetings, but made in connection with the plan for a centralised training-school, a plan that will take a long time to mature. In the meantime our own individual need is pressing. It behoves us to meet this need that we may keep abreast with our fellow-workers, who are putting forth every effort to meet it.

It does not seem possible to add any more to the curriculum of a general training-school, and, moreover, a nurse usually has no definite idea while in training as to the particular line of work she wishes to follow.

There are, however, a number of sources of instruction open to us which could be used for preliminary work. Schools of philanthropy, correspondence courses, volunteer service in charity organisation societies and in settlements, all offer methods of obtaining training.

A preliminary training of this sort would have the advantage of starting a nurse in with at least a substantial theoretical knowledge of what social service involves, and would tend to inspire a still higher appreciation of district nursing, and to encourage nurses to stay in the work for longer periods.

With this broader knowledge an established principle, the district nurse will be more than ever in a position to ask of co-workers an equal degree of understanding, not of her professional methods as such, but a realisation that her work has both a medical and social aspect, that she has definite methods of work, and that her usefulness covers a wide field.

Co-operation is, after all, a matter of understanding. There is an abundance of goodwill and earnestness. If we can add to these essential qualities a comprehensive knowledge of one another's methods, there will grow up among us that unity of action which is the strength of all work.

The Problem of the Trained Nurse.

An admirable article by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, entitled "The Problem of the Trained Nurse," appears in the *National Review* for October. It is a summary of the present situation as regards nursing organisation, with special reference to the Report of the Select Committee on Registration of Nurses of the House of Commons, and it is needless to say that the position is clearly and forcibly put. Lady Helen made a strong point by showing that the opponents of Registration all admitted to the Committee the necessity for some change in the conditions under which nursing is carried out. The admission was a notable one, and certainly told in favour of the registrationists.

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