

what the elements of modern skilled nursing mean.

The Tyneside scheme for a Benefit Nursing Association appears to us to be founded on very mischievous principles. Here it is in naked truth :—"The Association is unsectarian, it provides cottage nurses who have undergone nine months' training, the nurses 'make themselves at home in any household, taking their food with the family, and are in every way like one of themselves; and if they are nursing a mother in a house where there is no servant or grown-up daughter, they cook and attend to the children and keep the house clean as far as their patient's condition will allow.' They sleep in the patient's house, taking a chair-bed with them if necessary.

"Benefit subscribers to the association are divided into three classes to suit the means of the poorest. In Class I. the annual subscription is 2s., and patients in that class are entitled to a nurse at a charge of 3s. 6d. per week for her services; in Class II. the annual subscription is 3s., and the nurse's fee 5s. a week; and in Class III. the yearly subscription is 5s., and the nurse's fee 7s. 6d. per week. Non-subscribers may obtain the services of the association's nurses, but in their case the fees are higher, and the nurses are liable to be withdrawn if needed by members."

No woman can be "trained" in nine months. No woman worker of any description should be expected to sleep in overcrowded cottages, where, presumably, men and boys are housed, and these ill-trained cottage nurses have no right to undertake the nursing of the well-to-do classes, at a fee which undersells the trained worker right and left. We know that these so-called benefit associations are, in many instances, thoroughly unsound, both from the ignorance of the worker and from an economic standpoint. Let Members of Parliament look into these Associations, and they will soon see the shadow of the sweater in the rear.

In this connection we are glad to observe a warning note in the annual report of the North Riding Urban Nursing Association, it runs: "The health of the nurses had only been moderately good, and in many instances they had suffered from the strain of nursing hard and trying cases, and had themselves required nursing and rest before being able to resume their duties. The Committee wished to emphasise the fact that the Association existed

primarily to provide nurses for the sick poor. . . . The Committee desired to urge upon subscribers the importance of their exercising some supervision in cases where they gave tickets, and of ascertaining that the nurses sent to them were provided with proper food. They laid stress on the fact that while the nurses were required to do the necessary work of the house in cases of illness, their duties were primarily those of a sick nurse, and they were not expected to do heavy work, exhausting to their health and strength."

In speaking with candidates for the Registered Nurses' Society we were greatly interested in their replies to certain questions.

One nurse with a certificate from a leading London training school said, with a sly little smile,

"You must remember we are all dear children, about five years old, at —'s."

A second nurse, trained at a neighbouring hospital remarked "We are seven." Will "hospital experts" keep these few words in mind when bringing up their pro.'s "by hand." Nothing is more cruel to working women than to undermine their sense of personal responsibility, and thus depreciate their moral fibre, by treating them as "dear children." It unfits them for the hard knocks of this work-a-day world.

Linen Guilds are still on the increase. We notice they are being instituted in connection with numerous hospitals, thanks to Miss Todd's most practical little article in this Journal.

We deeply regret to record the suicide of another nurse, Miss Eleanor Priscilla Clarke, a nurse at the Holborn Union Infirmary, who died after taking a dose of carbolic acid. The Matron, Miss Gertrude Wild, said that the deceased had been a Staff Nurse at the Infirmary for two years. She was found lying on a bed in another nurse's room, apparently unconscious, and died a few hours after. She was worrying over an approaching examination. A nurse, a friend of the deceased, found a letter awaiting her on the hall table, telling her not to go to her room as she would find her there, and stating that she intended to take carbolic acid, and that she did not suppose she would ever pass the examination. A doctor who gave evidence said that the deceased had no cause to worry as she was very intelligent and should have passed the examination with ease. The jury returned a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity.

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