

the candidate's references as to character and general education seem satisfactory, she stays for a short time at the training hostel, where she has ample opportunity for seeing for herself what various districts are like, as she is sent to visit with nurses already settled. She may, perhaps, find that the reality is not at all like her ideal; or it may be apparent to those to whom she goes that although perhaps an admirable person she has neither the mental nor physical qualifications for the work. If, however, she both likes the work and seems suitable for it, she is sent to a general hospital for two years, and may afterwards take a course of maternity training. When this is ended she receives further instruction in practical district

up to the headquarters of the Mission at 2, Adelphi Terrace for the supplies for her kit bag and so on, and there she is sure to meet a number of her fellow nurses.

On her district she has also many friends, for although she nurses directly under the doctors, she also works with some local religious organisation and with the various charitable agencies. The nurses do their utmost to teach the people self-help, and, when it can be done, collect small sums from the patients for the dressings that have been supplied.

The future of the nurses is duly considered, and by federation with the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses the Mission secures a pension of £20 a year at the age of fifty-five

for its nurses, paying rather more than half the premiums itself.

As I am not myself a nurse I can only judge their work, of which, however, I have seen a great deal, from the lay point of view. I have been much struck with the way in which they understand the circumstances and limitations of their patients, and can turn them to the best account. They learn much by living actually on the district and among their people. Their mere presence up and down the street means a great deal.

It is a standard of neatness and cleanliness, and, to quote Mr. Charles Booth, "where the district nurse enters there the standard of living is raised." Imitation is attempted sometimes in very quaint ways. Calling once on a chronic, bed-ridden case I found the friend who for years had looked after the patient until she could carry out nurse's instructions quite cleverly—in collar and apron very creditably copied from those nurse wore. A very poor little room can I recall to which nurse came daily for some length of time where we found everything needful most carefully arranged, and a perfectly wonderful cleanliness. It had taken



CONVALESCENT HOME OF THE LONDON BIBLEWOMEN AND NURSES' MISSION, TILBURY HOUSE, WEST HILL, ST. LEONARDS.

nursing until she is appointed to a district of her own.

There she is not left stranded to get on the best she can, although she lives not in a central home but in her own rooms chosen and approved by the Mission. She has a Sister—in the hospital sense—who regularly visits her, who sees all her serious cases, with whom she is always in touch, who can be summoned in any emergency, can arrange for a second nurse if night duty is imperative, introduce her to the doctors, see that she looks after her own health, and show her new and better methods of work as they arise. The nurse herself comes

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