

dent on this subject, will therefore be of interest:—

For some time past I have been noticing advertisements of various agencies and registry offices advertising posts for nurses, and one afternoon sallied forth to inspect these places and to satisfy myself with regard to their value and honesty. Were they snares to the unwary nurses, or were they *bonâ fide* places?

There was a little nervousness, a little misapprehension and suspicion at my questions, but on the whole I found they all worked on the same lines, and that there was justice in the remarks of those who organise them. "Is there a trained nurse on your office staff?" was one of the questions I asked, and I naturally received an answer in the negative.

"Well, supposing I were a Matron or a lady in search of a hospital or permanent private or children's nurse, how would you be able to select her?" "Why, just as we choose governesses, companions, teachers, chaperones, viz., by certificates and testimonials," was the logical reply.

I had heard of nurses giving half a guinea for promised posts, which turned out to be merely drawn by enterprising agencies from the nursing papers, but whether these agencies were honest or dishonest seemed to me a side issue.

The two main points which struck me most were, "How can a lay registry office judge of the value of hospital certificates and of testimonials, when there is such chaos amongst ourselves, each hospital being a law to itself and there being such a variety in our standards?" and secondly, "Is there not a need in our profession for a registry office conducted by an experienced Matron?" Could the Matrons' Council not make this a question to be considered? Matrons and institutions are constantly advertising for nurses and probationers, whilst nurses, frequently, returning from abroad and the colonies, find themselves stranded and out of touch with their profession. Nurses wishing to change their posts, nurses out of posts, who are they to turn to for advice and help? Sickened and discouraged at answering advertisements, they naturally turn to every open door and opportunity, and walk into traps unknown. Are any of them ever successful at these agencies, I wonder?

The will of the late Mrs. Lewis-Hill provides for large bequests for the benefit of women: the Governesses' Benevolent Institution receives £50,000 and half the residuary estate to build and maintain residences, and another £50,000 in addition to the other half of the residue of the estate is to be devoted to founding an Institute and maintaining lodging-houses, for women of education and refinement, in London on the principal of the Rowton Houses. There is no provision in the will which benefits trained nurses directly or indirectly, either by the endowment of nursing education or by increasing the avenues of nursing work. This is the more regrettable as Mrs. Lewis-Hill was greatly interested in nursing, and just a year

ago founded the Ada Lewis Nurses' Institute, the object of which was to provide fully-trained hospital nurses for people of the middle classes, with limited means, at a nominal fee. She hoped to establish similar institutes in various districts of London and fully intended to endow them. In consequence however of the lack of support which the scheme received from the medical profession, Mrs. Lewis-Hill, to her great disappointment, felt herself unable to provide for it in her will, and the institute which has been in existence at 62, Oxford Terrace, W., will, unfortunately, have to be closed, the result, to its founder's great grief, not having justified the heavy expense. This is very unfortunate as provision for the nursing of middle-class patients is one of the most pressing problems in relation to the care of the sick.

Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary International Council of Nurses, writes:—"On behalf of the Nurses' Association of the Netherlands, Miss Van Lanschot Hubrecht, the Secretary, has sent out a leaflet announcing a most interesting and thorough preparatory course for those who intend to become trained nurses. The course, which comprises two academic years (from September 15 to July 1) has been brought into existence by the efforts of the nurses' organisation, with the co-partnership of two different already-existing institutes, the one for domestic science and housekeeping, the other for social organised work. The first year's work includes cookery, household accomplishments, mending, care of linen, and laundry; the simplest nursing duties, bandaging, anatomy, hygiene, elements of natural science and reading aloud. The second year includes more advanced anatomy and physiology, sterilisation, knowledge and care of instruments, preparation of dressings, and such accessory gifts as Sloyd, kindergarten principles, cutting of children's garments and book-keeping while ardour for social betterment is evinced in the provisions made for becoming familiar with the poor laws, housing problems, and social settlement work (to which is given the excellent name of Toynbee work). Visits will be made to institutions, and altogether it would seem that the Dutch nurses have the opportunity of a large and liberal culture before taking up hospital training. As three years constitutes a hospital course, these well-taught workers will have given five years to their training, an impressive rebuke given by little Holland, land of humanitarian work and model institutions, of upright men and thoughtful earnest women, to our six weeks' correspondence schools."

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