

## The Canadian Nursing World.

### AN INTERVIEW WITH MISS A. M. CRAWFORD.

One of the pleasures of being connected with a nursing paper is that it brings one into contact with so many interesting nurses, who, trained in far away countries, are yet grappling with the same problems as ourselves in nursing matters, with their own difficulties superadded.

At present Miss A. M. Crawford, one of the leading nurses in Winnipeg, is on a visit to this country, and kindly gave us some account of nursing conditions there. A great and ever-present difficulty is the servant question. At all times satisfactory servants are most difficult to get, and if there is any sickness in the house, and most especially if they have any idea that a maternity case is coming off, they at once clear out, so that the nurse is faced not only with the care of the patient, but also with the household work. This is one of the reasons why English trained nurses are not a success as private nurses in Canada; they are helpless before the domestic conditions. The Canadian woman on the other hand recognises that her part in the development of the Colony is largely that of home maker, and she grapples with the situation with a will, and with a capacity of which her more delicately nurtured English colleague is incapable. In Canada the dignity of work is rightly respected, and the community has no use for a person who is not a worker. In Winnipeg, for instance, tramps passing through are offered work at good pay in out-lying districts, and are often given money to take them to it. If, when they have the opportunity of work, they fail to fulfil their contract, they are given six hours to clear out of the district.

The servant question, of course, affects the hospitals also, and Miss Wilson, the Matron of the Winnipeg General Hospital, of 300 beds, has solved it satisfactorily, so far as the kitchen is concerned, by getting Chinamen from an agency in Vancouver. If one man leaves she communicates with the agent, and gets another cook "on the dot." There is now no trouble over the cleanliness of the kitchens and cooking, a great relief to the Matron, who is responsible for both. The Chinese laundries established in the city are also satisfactory.

It is a curious fact that many Gallicians are emigrating to Canada, and they also make excellent servants.

Women in Canada have the opportunity of acquiring their own land, and some of them become farmers, settling down in homesteads

of their own, and growing wheat. One woman in Ontario is a most successful breeder of horses.

As to the number of nurses in Canada, there are, says Miss Crawford, never enough to go round, especially in times of epidemics. The consequence is they all work very hard. A good many Canadian nurses go to the States where the work is not quite so hard, and the chances of promotion are greater. A difficulty with regard to nursing organisation is that the Canadian cities are so few, and so far between.

In connection with all the most important hospitals, candidates for admission must either produce certain educational certificates, or pass an examination set by the Matron. During their training they have to pass an examination by the Matron at the end of the first year, by members of the medical staff at the end of the second, and by outside examiners at the end of the third. There are no midwives in Canada, but all nurses get obstetric training in their three years' course.

Probationers in Canadian Hospitals as a rule get good training in the economical use of stores for the hospitals are not generally rich and the Superintendents themselves supervise the issue of stores and quickly pull up any nurse who shows any tendency to a lavish use of them.

Miss Crawford is very anxious that State Registration of Nurses should speedily be enforced in Canada, and one of her reasons is the trouble which the Central Registry (for private nurses) in Winnipeg has in dealing with the unsatisfactory women who come out from this country as nurses. They state they are fully qualified, and when asked for their diplomas have a hundred and one excuses. They have to be told that they must produce their credentials "right now," or they will be six weeks out of employment while enquiries are being made.

One nurse who came out stated that she was trained for two years at the London Hospital, and obtained work in Winnipeg on that ground. Her personal conduct, however, was so far from reputable that she was taxed with having been either a ward maid or a dismissed probationer at the London. She protested, but ultimately owned that she was a probationer but was dismissed because her personal conduct was not satisfactory. She had been nursing in Winnipeg for two years before this was brought home to her.

Thus from New Zealand, and Cape Colony we learn of the benefit of Registration; from Canada we hear of the need for it. Our Colonies are pointing the way along the path which we must eventually follow. M.B.

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