

give a furnished cottage, or from £90 to £100 per annum if furnished lodgings can be obtained. Surely this is a very modest inclusive salary for a fully-trained nurse and midwife, and money so expended could scarcely be laid out to better advantage. The key to the Rural Nursing problem is to be found in the provision of adequate salaries for fully-trained workers. £100 a year, considered by many women as a quite impossible dress allowance, will maintain entirely so valuable and highly-skilled a worker as a thoroughly-trained Queen's nurse, and admit of her making some provision for her old age.

Ladies who are now assuming the responsibility of organising the work of nurses in country districts, will do well to acquaint themselves with methods and standards of nursing education. Study of the organisation of Lady Dudley's Scheme, and of the good work which it has accomplished must be of value in this connection.

PRIVATE NURSING.

The responsible nature of the private nurse's work is becoming increasingly recognised, and neither medical men nor patients are any longer content that second rate nurses, not considered good enough for work in hospital wards, should be shunted into private nursing institutions. The result of the appreciation of the value of their services is that highly skilled nurses, in increasing numbers, are taking up work as private nurses to the great advantage of the public.

In no branch of nursing does the character and the personality of the nurse count more than in private work. It affords scope for her individual gifts, for which there is comparatively little use in the institution world where she is but a unit in a well drilled and efficient machine. It is this individual responsibility which attracts many nurses to this branch in which success or failure is so largely a personal matter.

An increasing number of hospital committees are now supplying private nurses to the public, and it is natural that the physicians and surgeons connected with these hospitals should wish to secure for their private patients nurses who have been trained in their own methods; but it is their duty to see that the work of the nurses is not exploited for charitable purposes. In this connection hospital committees might well follow the example of St. Bartholomew's Hospital where the private nurses work on the co-operative principle, and are thus able to provide for their future.

MENTAL NURSING.

The effect of the advance of medical science in the treatment of the insane has made co-operation between the man of science and highly skilled mental nurses essential. Formerly patients were admitted to Asylums, and were practically imprisoned in the charge of ignorant keepers, and little hope was entertained of their return to ordinary life, but now that Asylums are organised as mental hospitals—the object of which is the cure of the patients—an enlightened system of training their attendants has become compulsory. The Medico-Psychological Association gave an immense impetus to the higher education of mental nurses, when it instituted a central examination, and awarded a certificate to those who passed it successfully, and the Medical Superintendents of Asylums are greatly to be congratulated on taking the initiative, as it is mainly owing to their efforts that the standards of training for mental nurses have been systematised. This Society has moreover this year presented a petition to the Prime Minister signed by upwards of 8,000 nurses (male and female), medical men, and members of committees of management of public asylums and others, in favour of the recommendation of the Select Committee on Registration, that mental nurses should be recognised and registered in a separate register of their own, under any Act passed for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

A movement has also been inaugurated to start a Co-operation of Mental Nurses and Club in the West End of London.

SCOTLAND.

In Scotland notable events have been (1) The institution of an examination by the Local Government Board for the nurses under its control, including a preliminary examination in general education of applicants for appointment as probationers. The period of training enforced before nurses can obtain the parchment certificate granted after the final examination is three years, and all nurses in the parochial service are expected to endeavour to obtain this certificate. (2) The question of the formation of a Scottish Nurses' Association is at present under consideration, and we hope that next year may see the organisation of Scottish nurses in a professional society. (3) Arrangements are also being made to open a Nurses' Club in Edinburgh, to provide nurses throughout Scotland with a convenient centre.

IRELAND.

In Ireland the Irish Matrons' Association and Irish Nurses' Association are well or-

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