

would be specially useful for, the slightest chance of delay would be equally disastrous, for if the Nurse were away from home, when the telegram arrived, everyone can imagine, not only the delay, but also the uncertainty and the confusion, which would inevitably arise.

But there is, to our mind, another and more serious objection still, to this scheme, so far as it affects Nurses living alone and working on their own account. Such are responsible to no one, and yet the Registry Office, if they proved unsatisfactory in any particular, would naturally be held responsible for them.

Suppose even, that some Nurse, recommended by the Office, proved herself unworthy of trust in one case, would the officials, or even the Association, have power to remove her name from the List, and so prevent her from again doing discredit to both?

We opine that there would be much difficulty experienced, in so heavily punishing her. At the best there would be necessitated some sort of semi-judicial examination, before such a severe measure would be resorted to. And all experience shows that the majority of English men and women are very long-suffering, and would sooner put up with much annoyance and trouble, than go through the worry and exposure incidental to a formal complaint, such as would be absolutely necessary in such a case as we have imagined. Nevertheless, in our judgment, the Association would be running serious risk of grave public discredit if it could be, as it certainly would be, held responsible for the acts of all Nurses thus recommended by its officials. Consequently, for these and many other reasons, which our space prevents us from now discussing, we are strongly of opinion that it would not be wise for the Association to undertake to open a Registry Office *for Nurses living separately, each in her own lodgings*, whether far from, or near to, this central bureau. Moreover, as we have shown above, such a system would be as expensive, and nearly as uncertain, as the present one for such Nurses. But, as we previously hinted, we consider that, with one great modification, this idea of a central bureau for Private Nurses might prove extremely useful to them, to the public, and to the medical profession.

Briefly, then, we consider that the scheme should, and practically only could, be worked in some such manner as the following. That all the Nurses desirous of employment through the office should live together in one or more houses managed perhaps upon co-operative principles, so that each could not only be made self-supporting, but even cheaper for each individual occupant therein than living alone would be. And with this there should be enforced a rigid rule that any

Nurse who was reported to the Superintendent of the Home for any professional or other misconduct should, for the common welfare, be obliged to leave the Home, and so cease to obtain work through the agency of the central office.

The Registry Office, therefore, in such a case, would best be situated at one of these houses, and being connected by telephone with any others thought advisable. An ordinary house might first be taken; then, as the scheme succeeded, and Nurses found out its advantages to themselves, and employers discovered its usefulness to them in saving time and trouble, increased accommodation might be procured for new Nurses. Then, it appears to us, all the advantages would be secured which this clever scheme, successfully carried out, undoubtedly offers to Nurses. At the same time, the difficulties, we have pointed out above, to the employment of Nurses living alone, would be, one and all, surmounted.

But then comes a most important and practical point. How is this Central Office, with attached Nurses' House, to be organised, and initiated, and carried on? It appears to us that it would be extremely unwise for the British Nurses' Association, according to our contemporary's suggestion, to undertake the work, for many reasons. In the first place, the scheme would be certainly considered to be an attempt to compete with the many Private Nursing Institutions at present existing. We do not agree, altogether, however, with our contemporary, in its opinion that the formation of such an office would "tend towards the gradual abolition of the proprietors, whether hospital or individual, by whom Nurses are now farmed out." Many of these have wrought great public good and service, and have acquired reputations which, justly deserved, will not easily be subverted; and we are by no means convinced that it would be for the general welfare that they should be abolished, or even have their present prosperity in any way diminished. Indeed, we are strongly of opinion that it would be a great national loss and detriment if some of these Institutions ceased to exist. But however this may be, we consider it quite certain that it would be unwise, if not wrong, on the part of the British Nurses' Association to undertake to found, on its own account, a Nurses' Home, which might be, or even imagined to be, a rival to any of the existing Institutions. And, as we have proved, a Central Office would be incomplete in success or usefulness unless it were in direct connection with one or more specially-constituted Nurses' Homes. We express our opinion frankly and freely on this matter, as we promised to do in our first number, and, as we are able to do from our complete

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