

employ unqualified Nurses, and reap the ill consequences that generally result from so doing.

There is another point on which the Association has claims on the public. Nurses, as a body—even those most skilled in their craft—are but poorly paid; in many cases their earnings are, to use a phrase current at the present, sweated by the middleman, or rather middlewoman; their labour is severe, but tells heavily on the constitutional powers; the clothing is more costly than might be imagined, as it must be adapted to the requirements of the calling, and the extreme of neatness and cleanliness imperative. To recoup her powers, often exhausted to the uttermost by the mental as well as physical strain caused by attendance on a severe and protracted case, recreation is necessary, and recreation costs money. Then, again, comes the provision for old age. Every Nurse should insure for a deferred sum, to be paid to her on attaining a fixed age. To aid Nurses in securing all these requirements to their well-being, the British Nurses' Association wants that which may be defined as the sinews of benevolence as well as of war; and we may therefore aptly conclude by quoting the final paragraph of Her Royal Highness's letter, which states that "contributions will be thankfully received, and may be paid either to the bankers of the Association, Messrs. Barclay and Co., 54, Lombard-street, E.C., or to the honorary secretaries, Dr. Bedford Fenwick and Miss C. J. Wood, at 20, Upper Wimpole-street, W."—*The Queen*.

THE NURSING OF SICK CHILDREN.

By MISS CATHERINE J. WOOD,

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II.—SICK CHILDREN IN HOSPITALS.

THE care and thought that is now bestowed upon the treatment of sick children marks a distinct advance in medical science. Somehow, in the past, the sick child was neglected. If the family Doctor was skilful in the treatment of the sick child in the family he had gained his experience after leaving the Hospital, and perhaps at the expense of his patients. Moreover, it was considered quite unnecessary to provide a Trained Nurse for a sick child, unless the illness was infectious, or the strength of the mother was unequal to the task of Nursing. The Nurse then provided, had received no especial training for her work, but was often some useful, motherly woman from the neighbourhood, who could come in for the night-watch. Such was the fate of the sick child

of the rich. The *poor* sick child fared worse. If brought to the Hospital, it was hustled and jostled as out of place, and often treated by the students; and, if grudgingly admitted into the Wards, it was hardly welcomed, for it made an extra demand upon the Nurse's time, and often disturbed the older patients by its fretful wailing.

The Doctors were puzzled by it, for its language was not understood, and there was no one to interpret; and so it got better, or worse, under the care of Nature.

This is now a thing of the past. The illnesses of children are a special study, and the Nursing of them is an art, and is certainly more difficult than that of the adult. A well-appointed Hospital has its Children's Ward, and a well-appointed town has its Children's Hospital; for it is now a recognised fact that careful attention to the hygiene of children, has much to say to prolonging life in the adult.

It may be questioned, is there such a difference between the adult and the child, as to require special study on the part of the Doctor, and special training on the part of the Nurse? Undoubtedly there is. Consider how a child, even in health, can give no reliable account of himself, and how dependent he is on those around him for everything; how his waywardness, obstinacy, and capriciousness may make him master of the situation; and how these childish characteristics are intensified in illness. Consider, also, how impossible it is for a child to give any help in the interpretation of his symptoms; he will probably refer his ailment to the wrong locality. The diagnosis must be made without his help, and in spite of him; those in attendance on him must learn his language, and read his signs, and, in the full sense of the word, must *manage* him.

All this knowledge is gained with greater facility in a Hospital set apart for children, even than in the Children's Ward in a General Hospital, where, it cannot but be, that the Ward is regarded more in the light of a Nursery than a Ward. In a Children's Hospital, a sick child is placed in the most favourable circumstances for its recovery, and everything is in harmony with it. The child being in the Hospital, it may seem superfluous to discuss the best way of Nursing him; and yet in these days of imitation, when Special Hospitals for Children are constantly being opened, it may be a help to sketch out the arrangements of the Wards, and the distribution of the Nurses.

Those who have been accustomed to adult Nursing, may doubtless, think that no difference is needed, except in an adaptation of material to the size of the patient; but more than this is wanted, for the sick child wants an individual

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