

house-keeper and butler received £80 per annum, the lady's-maid £50, and the kitchen-maid and myself (she scrubbed the basement and saucepans, and *I was responsible for the life of a precious only child*) received the munificent sum of £20. But the old order of things is passing rapidly away, and you have only to call public attention to the Institutions who still violate all laws of equity and justice, by depriving the Nurse of the fees the public are willing to pay her, to make it impossible that these wrongs should continue."

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"A FORMER Asylum Nurse" writes to the *Globe*:—

"Sir,—It is pleasing to note that a movement is on foot for the training of Nurses for mental cases, and that, at last, the subject is getting the notice it merits. Some years ago, it was my lot to hold the post of Nurse in an Asylum, and it is no exaggeration to say that the greater portion of the Nurses in that particular Asylum were uneducated women, whose only qualification for their selection, I should imagine, had been their muscular strength, which was more often than not very much in evidence in some of the wards. I believe that the patients would have been less violent and more tractable had some of these Nurses shown greater humanity, been better educated, and their brains brought to bear upon the reason as to why these poor creatures were in their charge at all; and, if recovery were possible, that it would have been accomplished more speedily if the treatment by the Nurses had been carried out with a technical knowledge, and not merely by what we will call "rule of thumb." These Nurses, be it remembered, are with the patients all day, and know their little idiosyncrasies better than the doctors possibly can. Why training for the nursing of mental diseases has been overlooked so long is a matter for wonder, and it is also a matter for congratulation that the officers of one Asylum at least (Berrywood, Northampton) have taken up the subject in earnest, and that a limited number of Probationers are now taken there for a small fee and reside for one year. This is a step in the right direction, and I hope, for the sake of the poor suffering people who are so powerless to lessen their own affliction, that the examples set at Berrywood will be followed elsewhere.

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THE Committee of the University Hospital at Philadelphia, has concluded to lengthen the course of training for its Nurse pupils to three years instead of two. In the three years will be included a knowledge of the other branches of Hospital work besides Nursing, such as housekeeping, cooking, laundry, office work, etc. This is a wise decision on the part of those in authority, as, with this additional year, the American curriculum of training will be the most complete in the world. We must look to our laurels, and add instruction in invalid dietary to our course, or we shall certainly fall in the rear.

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"The Nursing profession," says the *Trained Nurse*, "has sustained a severe loss in the death of Miss K. L. Lett, Superintendent of St. Luke's Training School, Chicago, whose paper on 'Nurses' Homes' appears in this number. Miss Lett was a graduate of Bellevue Training School, New York, and had, for the last seven years, superintended the Nursing of the St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago. As pupil in Bellevue, and as superintendent in St. Luke's, she was alike known for her untiring devotion to the highest ideals of her profession; it may truthfully be recorded of her that she never shirked a duty nor spared herself when the interests of those with whom and for whom she worked demanded her services."

We can testify to the courtesy and ability of this charming woman. After a few days' residence in Chicago we received a kindly letter from her, offering hospitality, and desirous of showing a colleague and a stranger any sisterly attention in her power, and it is with pleasure that we recall the day spent in her society. The Hospital under her charge was in exquisite order, and the diet kitchen, in which she took so great a pride, specially designed for the Nurses' instruction in sick dietary, made a strong impression on our mind. We record her early death with sincere regret.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT from Melbourne writes:—

"Those who have the welfare of Nurses truly at heart, have wondered much how these good women have worked for so long on a system by which their well-earned fees have, but in small proportion, found their way into their own purses; and such friends of Nurses will be glad to hear that the Ladies' Committee of the St. Kilda Nurses' Home have decided to allow the Nurses of that Institution to receive their own fees, instead of the small salaries, with an uncertain percentage on their receipts, which was the previous method of payment. The Nurses will now pay for their own board and lodging, which means that they will work on the co-operative system; the Home becoming a boarding-house for private Nurses between their cases. The late Assistant-Matron of the Alfred Hospital will act as Lady Superintendent."

THE Ladies' Committee of the St. Kilda Nurses' Home are greatly to be congratulated on their wise decision. It is pleasant to hear from far Australia of progress in Nursing matters on the same lines upon which we are working at home.

* * *

THIS reminds us that another residential Home for Nurses, combining the advantages of a club, has been opened at Nottingham Place, W., by Mrs. STUBBS, with the help of Miss BECKWITH as Matron, where everything has been arranged for the comfort of the inmates. These terms charged are, for curtained cubicle, £1 per week, or 3s. 6d. per day. A separate bedroom is charged £1 5s. per week, or 4s. 6d. per day. The terms include board—four meals daily. Without board, the sum paid for curtained partition is 1s. 9d. per day; for separate room, 2s. 6d. For separate meals the cost is, breakfast, 6d.; lunch, at 1 p.m., 9d.; tea, 6d.; dinner, at 6.30, 1s.; and breakfast in bed 2d. extra. For use of bathroom 2d. is the charge, and extra luggage is charged 3d. a week per package.

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A LIST of trained Nurses is to be kept at Beresford House, and we advise that the three years' standard of hospital training, advocated by the Lords' Committee, and demanded by the Royal British Nurses' Association, shall be made compulsory for enrolment thereon, as the acceptance of a lower standard of education and experience is unwise on the part of a new institution desiring to take an unimpeachable position in public estimation.

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