

feeling strongly, as we do, the great injustice of the system, we must protest against it, feeling sure that all who are actuated by a sense of truth and justice, will sympathise with our views on the subject.

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IN the annual report of the Committee of the Kent and Canterbury Institute for Trained Nurses we read :—

“While the general working of the Institute has been so very satisfactory in 1893, we regret much to have to notice that in our District Nursing Department our financial position is not at all what it should be, and that we do not receive that support from the public which so good a charitable work deserves. We have this year been able to make a more exact account of the cost of this department, and find that, giving to our two district Nurses their fair share (which happens to be just one-third) of the annual cost of food, wine, washing, gas, etc., and servants, in addition to two district salaries and appliances, the total cost in this department has been £126 3s. 2½d., whereas our total of subscriptions and donations has only been £114 7s. or £11 16s. 2½d. less than was needed, and £12 13s. less than it was last year. This amount has had to be met out of the earnings of our general Nurses. It should also be especially noticed that we are now employing two District Nurses, and that our being able to do so is due solely to the fact that one of them has most kindly given her services, without taking any salary. This lady, Mrs. Seaman, had to leave us during the year, and another lady, Mrs. Julius, has been so kind as to carry on her work on the same terms. This is, however, a temporary arrangement, and one we cannot count on; and if we are to continue to give the poor of Canterbury the services of two Nurses free of charge, it can only be done by the public increasing their subscriptions and giving £120 per annum to this charity. This is not a large sum to ask for in so big a City as Canterbury, and for so good a work.”

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THE wisest plan, it appears to us, would be to dis sever Private and District Nurses' Institutions—working the former on the co-operative system, whereby the Nurses take their own earnings, paying a percentage for the maintenance of the Home, and only maintaining the number of District Nurses for which the charitable public in each town are prepared to pay. Nothing can extenuate the system by which such work is paid for out of the very limited earnings of a most hard worked and ill-paid class of workers such as trained Nurses.

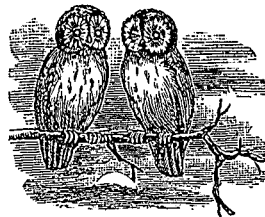
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AT a meeting of the Spalding Branch of the Lincolnshire Rural Nursing Association on Monday night, the Vicar (the Rev. M. H. MARSDEN) presiding, it was resolved to make an effort to raise £100 per annum so as to secure the services of two Nurses, one being highly trained. Sister EVA, of Spalding, was unanimously appointed Lady Superintendent for Spalding; Mr. ALEXANDER ALVES was elected secretary; and Mr. SOUTHWELL treasurer.

Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?

What should constitute an efficient preliminary education, and how should it be obtained?



MADAM,—Had it not been for Miss de Pledge's letter in your issue of the 3rd inst., I should have said there could be but one answer to your question for “Matrons in Council.” Education, I take it, does not mean merely what we are taught at school—that is the last part of it; the important education comes after, and with many people continues to the close of life. I have known women who had been at good schools and whose opportunities have been great, but who had done no mental work since they were “finished” and whose ignorance was colossal. I have also known women whose school education was limited to what a workman with a large family and a small purse could afford; yet, because their mental processes were quick and accurate, and they possessed intelligence and a thirst for knowledge, they were well informed women. These, of course, are types of the two extremes of each class. We do not want mechanical Nurses; we have them in abundance. There is a great gulf fixed between the Nursing Machine and the “Good Nurse,” and to produce the latter, we must have minds prepared by education, as a gardener must have prepared soil in which to grow his finest flowers. Women, whose minds have been opened and made receptive by a sound education at school, supplemented in later years by study at home, will be able more intelligently to profit by the opportunities presented to them in the wards of a Hospital; they will more readily grasp the immense responsibility of the work, and avoid more surely the numberless pitfalls which surround them. I see many dangers before the uneducated Nurse, which vanish, more or less, from the pathway of the Nurse whose intelligence has been educated and trained. It would be rather an advantage than otherwise for her to be able to write “a prose essay or construe the Odes of Horace,” as, by giving her an intellectual study, it would help to keep her mind in the desired healthy, active condition. I hold that the widest education, the most highly trained intelligence, and the finest and tenderest feelings are not thrown away in Nursing; but inasmuch as they are exercised by use, those qualities are developed and strengthened. Every woman, without doubt, should be systematically trained in domestic work in her own home. The knowledge thus gained will not be lost when she becomes a Nurse. The woman who can satisfactorily dust the drawing room will not leave triangles of dust on the ward window-shelf; if

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