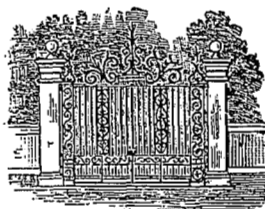


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.

THE NORLAND INSTITUTE.



As the NURSING RECORD must pass through the hands of many to whom the question of "What shall I do?" is a vital one, I should like to bring before your notice a fresh field for women's work in the "Norland Institute," founded by Mrs. Walter Ward in 1892, now firmly established and much valued both by the girls trained and the ladies who employ them.

The object of the Institute is, briefly, to provide educated, intelligent, and capable help for the many mothers to whom the moral and physical well-being of their children is of primary importance.

The training for the Nurses consists of a term of nine months, three of which are spent at the Institute in learning the elements of domestic work; the making of children's garments, nursery cooking, and some of the principles of Froebelian teaching. The next three months are spent at a Children's Hospital or Convalescent Home, where the Probationers learn how to handle, feed, and care for sick children; the treatment of simple ailments and such useful facts as the taking of temperature, etc. The final three months are spent in some Institution or private family where the previous six months' training is put to practical use.

Life at the Institute is simple, home-like, and full of interest, and universally enjoyed by the Probationers; to many the Hospital life is interesting and delightful, to all helpful and instructive, whilst in most cases the final three months leads to an engagement in the family under the happiest auspices.

The fee for the whole training is £36 for each resident Probationer, and £25 for each non-resident, payable half on entrance and half at the end of the first three months. This includes the uniform worn by the Nurses—an exceedingly pretty and becoming one, grey-blue dresses with black bonnet and cloak for winter, or grey bonnet and cloak for summer wear.

The Institute will have been started two years in September, and one may reasonably begin to ask, "Is it a success?" If demand far in excess of the supply means success, then emphatically is the answer in the affirmative. But there are other and deeper reasons why this may still be the case. The great demand shows pre-eminently how great was the wisdom and foresight of the founder in seeking to provide for a deeply felt, but, until now, unexpressed, want. Other proofs are found in the interest shown on all sides in the work, and the grateful letters of satisfaction from mothers who have already begun to feel the relief of being able to entrust their children to loving, willing, and refined hands, certain that her own methods of training will be carried out in her absence as in her presence.

A mother some weeks back said to me, speaking on the subject, "In providing for my baby's souls as well

as their bodies my life is completely absorbed, and it would be an incalculable comfort to feel I could share the loving burden with another interested in the same way."

Therein lies the kernel of the whole matter. The benefit to the child will be that its moral as well as physical well-being is made an object of care, and the interest jointly shared is stimulating alike to both mother and nurse.

As a Norland Nurse, I have now had opportunity of seeing the value of the work to both employer and employée. To the mother it means freedom from some of the most wearying anxiety that comes with the care of children, more leisure for her own recreation; pleasure in the companionship of an educated equal and the help which lies in the sense of working hand in hand with another bent on the same object. To the Nurse it means a home where the ordinary domestic virtues of no special market value are appreciated—a position of confidence and trust, a healthful life, and above all, the sense that the character of a future generation is, to a certain extent, in her hands.

When first the Institute was started, two doubts were constantly expressed. Would not the work tend to make light of the responsibility of mothers; and, secondly, would the position of the Nurse be recognised? Both these questions have answered themselves.

The principle underlying the whole course of training is understood to be that the Nurse works *with* and not *instead of*, or only *for*, the mother, and every true mother will be quick to recognise and value this; whilst with regard to the Nurse's position the parents who can appreciate the worth of refined and high-minded help will also be ready to accord it its proper place; and, so far, all those Nurses who have entered on their work in the right spirit have met with courtesy and consideration.

As a Nurse, I cannot speak too gratefully of the unvarying kindness with which I have been received both at home and abroad. Perhaps I have been exceptionally fortunate in being in a home where the welfare of each and all is viewed from the highest standpoint, but there must be many such, just as there will be always some, exceptions. There will be worldly mothers, who care nothing for their children's moral good; but to these children, surely, the Nurse will be of even greater benefit. There will be Nurses who fail to recognise the dignity and usefulness of their high office. This last difficulty, however, is largely obviated by the fact that all the Nurses are specially selected for the homes to which they are sent.

No great work was ever carried on without some let or hindrance; but, surely, in these days, when Woman's Work is part of the great social problem, the fact of there being a field for it, where the balance is so largely on the side of happiness, interest and usefulness should bring comfort to many an anxious beginner. So long as the world lasts, children will be born and Nurses wanted; and here, at least, is one corner where the all-dreaded word "Competition" need not at present be heard.

All further particulars can be obtained from the Principal, The Norland Institute, 19, Holland Park Terrace, Notting Hill, W.

"NURSE BLANCHE."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)