

Nursing in the villages. Woodborough was the only parish which so far had been successful in this county in finding a woman in the parish and sending her away for nine months to be trained and have her back again. The County Council had given lectures on Nursing, but the result was exceedingly disappointing in Woodborough, and Lord Belper was anxious that instead of giving these lectures the County Council should give grants to take women out of the villages and have them trained so that they could return and work in the village whence they had gone at a very much less cost than they would have to pay for a trained Nurse who was a stranger. The speaker spoke of the advantages of having a trained Nurse in preference to an ignorant woman.

Now Mr. Buckland is evidently sincere in wishing well to the poor of the parish, but, not being acquainted with the art of Nursing, he is not aware that "a woman who is sent away for a nine months' training" is a most dangerous person to have in a village. He speaks of the failure of some "Nursing lectures," and this is the same old story. So long as County Councils continue to engage as "Lecturers on Nursing" women who have never had a day in hospital, smatterers who have attended a few months' lectures, and have perhaps had a little superficial Infirmary instruction, so long will Nursing lectures prove a failure.

And to comment on another point, the chief arguments used for the employment of unskilled Nursing is its cheapness. "Cheap and nasty" is perfectly true, and no persons have a right to waste the life and health of a community by providing cheap and inefficient care to the sick.

He says "a woman sent from a village to receive such training (nine months!) will return and work in the village at a very much less cost than they would have to pay for a trained Nurse who was a stranger." By which he makes it appear that the trained Nurse would cost more because she is a stranger, whereas it would be because she was trained and could do her work properly.

No doubt Mr. Brown would be horrified were a "quack doctor" to set up in his village, and he would certainly discountenance his parishioners from calling him in, although the same argument would apply, that his services would be "cheaper." We want the fact realised that a quack Nurse is every whit as dangerous as a quack doctor.

In the course of the same meeting Mr. Paxton said he did not think the trained Nurses were really adapted to serve the poor; they were really trained to serve those who could

CARLSBAD—the renowned Spa in Bohemia—has been thronged this summer with patients suffering from all kinds of liver and gouty complaints, who have reaped great benefit from taking the celebrated waters; but it is not sufficiently known that persons unable to visit the Spa can obtain the *natural* Carlsbad Sprudel Salts or Waters at all Chemists, Stores, &c. To distinguish the *natural* salts from artificial imitations, note the names on wrapper of "LOEBEL SCHOTLAENDER, CARLSBAD," and INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., Sole Agents, 52, Farringdon Street, E.C. Pamphlet on application.

pay well. Mr. Paxton is evidently not aware that the poor in Hospitals are considered worthy of receiving the attention of the most highly-trained Nurses that exist, and there is no valid reason why the poor should not receive in their own homes Nursing of equal value to that which they would receive were they in Hospital.

THERE is apparently a very epidemic of Infirmary troubles—perhaps the exceptional heat, or, better still, a spirit of progress and reform, which may account for the fermentation arising among Boards of Guardians throughout the country.

At Grantham at a recent meeting a letter was read from the Local Government Board stating that they had received a report from their Inspector as to the insufficiency of the Nursing staff. Dr. Eaton endeavoured to show that an additional trained Nurse was not required, as cases that were in the Infirmary when the Inspector made his visit were not there now.

Inspector Stevens reported "that he had that morning seen an old man who had sores lying on a straw bed in the Infirmary. The Nurse said they were dry sores, and they had been treated as such. He had examined the old man and found they were not dry sores. No water-bed or air-cushions had been in the workhouse for over twelve months."

Dr. Eaton attempted to explain the matter by saying "that air-cushions had been provided, but in less than a week's time they had been destroyed by a pin or something else being pushed into them." Now Dr. Eaton could hardly have condemned the Nursing more effectually than he did by this statement, which amounts to saying that the Nurses are not fit to be entrusted with ordinary and regulation sick-room appliances. And yet Dr. Eaton strongly opposes the appointment of an additional trained Nurse, and has made an official entry in his book that "The Nursing was efficiently performed with the assistance of inmates." Bed-sores on straw beds hardly bear out this statement.

But, fortunately, doctors disagree, and it is refreshing to find that Dr. Stansfield, Consulting Medical Officer to the Birkenhead Infirmary, has a higher standard, although it is hard that he should have been subjected to a certain amount of snubbing from Guardians who objected to his professional desire that the sick paupers should be properly cared for.

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