

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Lancet*, recognising these facts, has suggested that there should be three classes of attendants upon the sick; that the well-educated worker should be called a trained Nurse; that the woman who has received a shorter course of training in a Hospital, supplemented by district work, might be called a district Nurse; whilst those who have had six months' training in district Nursing might be known as cottage or village Nurses. Our contemporary further suggests that there might be a fourth class—of women who have had less than six months' district Nursing, and that these should be called Cottage Helps. We cannot but feel, however, that it would be not only more fair to the Nurses and to medical men, but also more just, and certainly less confusing, to the public, if the term trained Nurse were rigidly restricted to those women who have passed through at least three years' systematic Hospital education. And, with all deference to our contemporary, we venture to assert that the sick, whether they be rich or poor, are entitled, if they obtain a "Nurse," to have the services of a person who has been properly instructed in the duties which she is supposed to carry out. In other words, we believe that there should be only one class of Nurses, and that this should only include women who have been thoroughly trained. Medical men do not divide themselves into classes, comprising persons thoroughly trained, half trained, and not trained at all; nor do the members of any other skilled profession attempt to differentiate between those who have had some, little, and no, education in their respective duties. It would therefore simplify matters immensely, and it is, moreover, a result which is evidently impending, if the title of "Trained Nurse" were conferred only and solely upon those who have undergone a recognised Hospital education, and who, therefore, have at least attained to a minimum standard of knowledge and efficiency. District Nurses would consequently be defined as women engaged in district work, who had been thoroughly trained as Nurses.

The final suggestion of our contemporary appears to us to be very valuable, and we believe that a class of Cottage Helps might with advantage be formed—the term being employed to designate those engaged in attendance only upon the poorer classes in sickness, and who have not obtained the training and experience necessary to entitle

them to the designation of a thoroughly-trained Nurse. There is no doubt that such a distinction is needed, and that such a class of slightly-trained attendants who would be willing to act, on the one hand, as district visitors in towns, and, on the other, as general Nursing assistants in villages, would be of incalculable advantage to the sick poor. It is generally forgotten that the conditions of life amongst the poorer classes necessitate totally different methods of Nursing to those suitable for richer people. The whole arrangements of a working man's family, for example, are deranged by the illness of the wife; and an attendant to be actually useful in such an emergency must to a large extent undertake housekeeping details, and must attend to the children, the cooking, and the general cleanliness of the household, if her ministrations are to be of real value to her patient. She has, in fact, to be much more than a mere sick room attendant; and, therefore, in order to adequately provide for the needs of sick villagers especially, one of their own class is more suitable than some more thoroughly trained, but strange, Nurse. While this fact is beyond dispute, however, it is equally irrefutable that the Cottage Help should not be described, nor expected to be able to act, as a trained Nurse; the diverse conditions of living require different attendants, but no object is to be gained and only delusions are created by giving the untrained worker a title to which she has no claim or right.

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### The London Fever Hospital.

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WE have had much pleasure on various occasions in calling attention to the invaluable work performed by this Institution, both for the safety and welfare of the public. It is now proposed to completely rebuild the Hospital, a course for which there is much need; and it is to be assumed that in that case the accommodation will be increased, for which the necessity is even greater. We earnestly commend the claims of this national Institution to the generous consideration of our readers.

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WE regret to observe that our notice of the ingenious Ear Caps, described in our last issue, omitted to mention that they are made by, and can be obtained from, Messrs. Reynolds and Branson, Briggate, Leeds.

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