

Workhouse. The contrast is too great; it accentuates discontent, envy, and hatred, and is subversive of the discipline of the Institution.

The Guardians are allowed 5s. per head for expenses whenever they go to the Workhouse at Homerton, or the Bow Infirmary, out of which each Guardian is charged 2s., which it is alleged covers the luncheon and the dinner, exclusive of wines, which are paid for by the Guardians themselves.

Herewith is a return signed by the Clerk of the Board:—

Amounts expended during the past five years to Michaelmas, 1896, on Visiting Rotas (2). House, and Infirmary Committees, and on Contract and Call-over Committees:—

	£	s.	d.
For year ending Michaelmas, 1892 ...	201	0	0
To Michaelmas, 1893 ...	222	10	0
„ Michaelmas, 1894 ...	230	15	0
„ Michaelmas, 1895 ...	261	6	0
„ Michaelmas, 1896 ...	276	0	0
Total for five years ...	£1,191	11	0

F. W. CRANE, Clerk.

March 17th, 1897.

I may be allowed to add that the cost of travelling to and from the Row Infirmary, and the Workhouse at Homerton, is sixpence. I trust, therefore, that the Local Government Board will confine the refreshments to the light luncheon, and stop the dinners at the Houses. Neither the Workhouse nor the Infirmary should be made rendez-vous for this sort of thing.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN LOBB.

A PRESSING PROBLEM.

It is interesting to note that the Committee of Management of the Montreal General Hospital are, in a new venture, attempting to grapple with the difficulty universally felt, concerning the efficient nursing of the middle classes. It is proposed that two certificated nurses shall make their headquarters at the hospital, under the control of the lady superintendent, to whom applications for their services will be made. The authorities of the hospital will make themselves responsible to the nurses for their adequate remuneration. It is contemplated supplying the services of these nurses to the public at rates varying with the incomes of the applicants. We are glad to observe that this scheme, for dealing with a pressing problem, does not propose to meet the difficulty by supplying nurses with inadequate training at reduced fees. The necessity that the nurses should be fully trained is recognised, as is also the fact that they are entitled to receive full fees. The difference between the fees received by the nurses, and those paid by their employers, is to be met by public subscription. It is estimated that the earnings of the nurses will have to be supplemented by about £60 per annum a head.

Trained Nursing for People with Moderate Incomes.*

By DIANA C. KIMBER.

For the December number of the *Trained Nurse*, 1895, I wrote a short paper, entitled, "A New Field of Work for Nurses." In this paper an attempt was made to answer two very pressing questions, which were then, and are now, troubling many of our minds. These questions were briefly (1) How shall we provide more work for our graduate nurses? and (2) How shall we provide skilled nursing for people who cannot afford to pay the usual price of the trained nurse?

The ready solution of these two problems adopted by many people who are not thoroughly informed as to a nurse's life and resources is that nurses must lower their prices, and they will then meet with a large demand for their services, and the needs of the largest section of the community—the wage-earning section and the people with moderate incomes—will be supplied. That this is not a practical solution was very ably shown by Dr. Bogart, in an address made to a graduating class in Brooklyn last summer, and which address was published in the *Trained Nurse* in August. In stating the reasons why graduate nurses are justified in making seemingly high charges, Dr. Bogart gives the principal one as this: "Trained nurses, on private duty, as a rule, work, not five hours a day as teachers do, nor six to eight hours a day as stenographers and typewriters do, but sixteen, eighteen, twenty, and sometimes twenty-four hours a day. Her pay at 21 dols. a week, or 3 dols. a day, is 20 cents. an hour for a minimum of fifteen hours, or 15 cents an hour for a maximum of twenty hours' work. While earning this amount she often gets no more than four or six hours' sleep, and this in the sick-room beside her patient and subject to frequent interruptions. Recreation is scarcely to be thought of until the patient is convalescent, and there are no holidays until the service terminates either by the recovery or the death of the patient, or the nurse breaks down under the strain and has to be relieved. The average nurse is physically incapacitated at least one-quarter of her time, and many are unable to withstand the strain of private nursing for more than six or eight months out of the year. All this has to be taken into account in determining the propriety of nurses insisting upon 3 dols. a day as their minimum figure." The whole paper is a most fair presentation of the nurses' position with regard to the subject in hand—how to provide trained nursing for people with moderate incomes.

* Paper read at Superintendents' Convention, Baltimore, February, 1897.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)