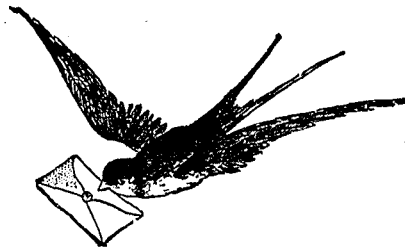


that dull dread out of the lives of the pioneers in the country and of the poor in the cities should be left undone when a national jubilee in such an Empire as that of Great and Greater Britain is in prospect. An improvement of the conditions under which trained nurses follow their devoted and helpful occupation in the cities of Canada is also urgently needed.

It is proposed when the order is formed that the members may be—(a) Nurses who are already graduates of good standing in schools of recognised merit, and who pass an examination such as may be prescribed. (b) Nurses who shall be specially trained for the order and who shall pass the prescribed examination. The qualifications of the nurses of the Victorian Order are to be of the highest, for the class of work they are expected to do. Some of the chief objects of the order will be :—(a) To provide skilled nurses in sparsely-settled and outlying country districts; (b) to provide skilled nurses to attend the sick poor in their own homes in cities; (c) to provide skilled nurses to attend cases in cities at fixed charges for persons of small incomes, the charges being paid to the funds of the order; (d) to provide small lying-in rooms or wards in cottage hospitals or homes; (e) to prepare trained nurses thoroughly qualified to carry out these objects."

It is calculated that one million dollars are required to endow the order permanently, and the Committee hope that this amount will eventually be raised. Local committees are to be formed all over Canada, and the Canadian newspapers are invited to open subscription funds, while a special collection in every school-house is suggested for a fixed date in May. The circular of the Committee concludes with these words :—

"This will be a matchless memorial of the noblest queen of any country or age. It will show, as the personal gift of Canadians to her Majesty, that they admire and appreciate her blameless, beneficent, and beautiful life, noble alike in its sympathies and its activities in doing good. It has been the reign of a monarch doing good for all the people; and thus the Queen need not be concerned for a throne of velvet or gold, or monuments in marble or bronze, since she is enthroned in the hearts of her people, who love her as no monarch was ever yet beloved. For such a Queen it would be a happier plan to have a memorial in the form of gratitude written perennially in the hearts of the mothers of a young nation than to have it graven in stone or any inert material. From the women of Canada the music of loving memory will continually swell out in strains of warm and affectionate esteem. The children also, they will rise up and call her blessed! A memorial like that will be sweet to a woman like Queen Victoria."



Our American Letter.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT).

SOME time ago mention was made in these letters of the growing discontent of Bellevue graduates with the conditions of their Registry as maintained at Bellevue Hospital under the direct control of the Superintendent of Nurses and the general management of the Board of Directors. Chief among the grounds for dissatisfaction was the need of a telephone; and truly, in these days of modern conveniences, when a telephone is looked upon as one of the ordinary necessities of life, to hear that trouble arose because Bellevue nurses could not get a telephone sounds too ridiculous to be true, yet such was the fact.

Bellevue Training School is conservative, and sees no merit in changing old time-honoured customs for new ones. Physicians or patients' friends used to call personally for private duty nurses, and in an interview with the Superintendent make known the circumstances of the case. The nurse was selected with due care, and a messenger boy carried the call to her. If time was precious he took the street cars, otherwise walked. This method continued even to the present day, while every other hospital and registry in town had a long distance telephone, and nurses directly connected with it. Doctors soon found it more convenient to call up for a nurse than to go for her, and naturally preferred those registries which offered the best time-saving facilities. Bellevue nurses began to suffer from loss of work, and for several years have undergone severe financial distress, the calls to the school for nurses for private duty having diminished 50 per cent. in five years. Personal and individual appeals were made by the nurses with no effect. Doctors remonstrated, and said they would gladly employ Bellevue graduates if they could get them without travelling or sending a mile or two, but their words fell unheeded, and the registry kept on just the way it had started twenty-five years ago. All this time the graduates' registry fees amounted to about a thousand dollars annually, the corresponding expenses incurred for the registry being about fifty dollars per annum. The break began about a year ago, and the circumstances were these: Several Bellevue graduates, in order to increase their opportunities for work, registered at the Metropolitan Club, at the same time keeping on with the school registry. This simply meant that they paid two fees instead of one, and all was fair and above board. If the Metropolitan Club sent one of them a case she was careful to report at the school that she had taken it, just as she would do if she had a call from a doctor or patient directly, as often happened. So long as she did this, and paid her dues, it would be difficult to show why the source of the calls made any difference, or to prove that a nurse might take a call directly from an individual, but might *not* take one from another registry. However, the Bellevue

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