

cottage hospitals as compared with that obtainable in a large general hospital in the city. It is argued that the nurse is better equipped for her work, in that she comes into more direct contact with her superintendent and the physicians, and also because from the very smallness of the field she is able to study and become well acquainted with any case that is of peculiar importance. But certainly it would appear that if a large general training school is properly systematised, and managed, it must naturally follow that the pupil gets all, and a great deal more than, she can in a small hospital. Where this is not the case there is something wrong with the management of the larger school. As a proof that pupils from the smaller hospitals do not always find their training sufficient, superintendents of the larger general schools could tell how often application is made to them by graduates from these, as well as from schools belonging to special hospitals, stating that they wish for a larger and more varied experience. We know, however, that many of our small general training schools do excellent work and turn out competent graduates. Where they are officered by graduates from large general training schools, who are good managers and disciplinarians, and are enthusiastic in their work, every opportunity is seized and utilised for the advantage of the pupils, who can thus secure a thorough and fairly wide training. Again, when the nurse has graduated, she often finds her field of work right in the town or surrounding country, where she is among friends.

The amount of good accomplished by these cottage hospitals, both within and without their walls, is inestimable. They fill a long filled want, and rob illness in town and country of half its terrors, and are of unspeakable comfort to the physicians, who are usually their promoters and warm supporters.

In some instances, particularly in hospitals connected with churches, we find the nursing done by members of religious orders, sisters or deaconesses. For some reasons it seems to me to be regretted that in some church hospitals the sisters are giving up this branch of their work in favour of nurses, and are establishing training schools in connection with these institutions. Might it not possibly be better that a certain per cent. of the sisters should be regularly instructed in nursing, so that from their number a permanent staff of skilled workers would always be obtainable?

Turning to the remainder of the first group, which are all established for the care of some particular class of patients, we find, alas, that training schools are again abundant, and the same attractive circulars are being issued for the enlightenment of applicants. With few exceptions these hospitals are established in cities, and therefore cannot plead isolation. No doubt women who enter these schools become well grounded in the care of one particular class of patients and their diseases, but it is absurd to claim that a woman graduates from these with a thoroughly all-round training in both the practice and theory of her work, which would justify her in assuming the title of trained nurse. It is true that she may make the care of that particular disease her speciality, and attempt nothing else, but even then, everything else being equal, she cannot long be as efficient even in this limited sphere as the graduate from the general hospital, who, aided by an intelligent and varied knowledge, supplemented by wide experience and practice, can speedily adapt herself to any particular class of cases. If we think of

the future of the women who enter these hospitals it would seem that but little can be said in justification of the managers of such hospitals in their position of organisers of training schools. We are compelled to think that the welfare of their pupil nurses with them is a matter of no importance. To have the patients well cared for with as little expense and friction, and with as much ease as possible is their first consideration. Experience may have shown that this end can be most easily attained by establishing a training school, but we may well ask whether the means are justifiable. It is puerile to argue that the pupil nurse is a free agent, and need not enter such a school or stay after she is there. But can we reasonably expect that a woman who is ignorant of hospitals and their methods can be in a position to differentiate between what is advisable or inadvisable, more especially when the institution has the support of many good names.

I do not mean that these special hospitals do not turn out some excellent nurses. I believe quite to the contrary, for there are always some women bright and clever enough to profit by their work no matter where they are placed; the greater the pity that their privileges are not broader and more complete. Many of these special hospitals undoubtedly fill distinct needs, and it may be to the interest of both patients and science to have them in our midst. Children's hospitals, private hospitals, for the carrying out of the rest cure, and the treatment of nervous patients, and separate hospitals for the insane, are necessities. It does not, however, follow that they should each organise a training school, and that hospitals and sanatoriums opened by individuals for their own private gain should have in connection with them training schools for nurses, is a condition worthy of the severest condemnation.

One especially glaring instance has just come under my notice. I have recently been told of a private special hospital, owned by one man, which accommodates thirty patients; his training school for nurses numbers twenty pupils. The promoter's sole plea is that he tried graduate nurses, but they did so badly that he was obliged to open a school. These same graduates were no doubt products of institutions equally as bad as his own.

Such examples are repeated over and over again, and yet graduates from such schools receive the same title, and claim from the public and their fellows the same recognition awarded to trained nurses, who have given of their best time and strength to qualify themselves in well-equipped schools to do their work thoroughly, and be an honour to their profession. Every year these hospitals and graduates are on the increase until they threaten to take entire possession of the land. Right-minded, deep-thinking men and women, among the laity, who interest themselves in hospital work are averse to this system of multiplying small half-equipped training schools, and the question has been put to me, and I am sure to other superintendents many times, what other way is there? What else can be suggested which would seem to promote better results than those obtained by the methods now generally in vogue?

Exclusive of training schools we have five courses left open to us. The nursing could be undertaken (1) by the graduates of smaller schools willing to give their services in return for a post-graduate course under competent instructors, (2) By paid competent

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