

Maidstone, and we have no doubt money and kind will be generously forthcoming, so that in the emergency there should be no stinting in nursing aid, as it is, after all, of paramount importance in the treatment of enteric fever. The Sanitary Committee of Maidstone have been very active during the week. More nurses have been engaged; the services of two more sanitary inspectors have been secured, to specially superintend the disinfection and flushing of the drains and sewers of the town. The committee are still searching for a building suitable to contain one hundred beds for convalescent patients, and hope to secure the Assembly Rooms for the purpose. Applicants for relief increase daily, and the amount of distress among the sufferers is simply appalling. Clothes, bed-linen, and blankets are greatly needed, and, we are glad to learn, are being received in large quantities. Toys and picture books as well would be very welcome for convalescent children, and should be addressed to Miss Travis, Howard de Walden Institute, Maidstone.

We hear as we go to press that the Relief Committee have inaugurated an improved system of night nurses, for which twelve more trained nurses have been engaged, and that they are now busily employed.

### Male Nurses at the City (Charity) Hospital Training School, New York City.

By A GRADUATE MALE NURSE.

AFTER a Civil Service examination the male nurses become assistants, or probationers, for three months, first in the medical ward of the Hospital under a male head nurse. They serve also for three months in the throat ward, the venereal ward, and in the surgical ward. They then pass an examination on what they have learnt. Those that pass satisfactorily then take charge for three months, first of the medical ward, then in the surgical and throat wards, and, last of all, spend three months in the venereal ward. After satisfactorily passing another examination they receive diplomas as graduate male nurses. Each morning they answer to their names in the chapel at six a.m., before they go into the wards, and anyone not answering to the roll call loses his pass to the city. The salary is £2 per month for the first year, and £3 per month afterwards, which is just enough to buy text-books in regard to nursing, and so enable the nurses to pass the examinations well, as anyone who fails to pass does not get a diploma. The work consists of keeping the wards clean and

in good order, as these are inspected by the steward every morning at nine a.m. before the house physician and house surgeon. The beds are made by the patients—of course the convalescent patients—who are taught by the nurses. The nurse, of course, has to give warm and hot baths as soon as a patient comes in, also air and vapour, and medicated baths, and cupping dry and wet, and give enemas, douches, poultices, fomentations, as the ward physician shall order for different cases. The nurse also has to keep his medicine list on each medical cupboard. He must enter in a book the physician's directions each morning when the house physician makes his morning rounds, also all changes as to diet and medicine as directed. He is responsible to the house physician, and the steward and head male nurse for all he does. He must be manly, kind, and patient to all. After his two years' training he is expected to nurse mental cases for at least six months before he can go out as a mental nurse or take care of those cases. One of the nurses who was in my class, after leaving, was appointed superintendent of the Jacksonville Hospital in Florida. Another went into a medical school for two years and came out a physician. After leaving the school and doing about five years' satisfactory private work, a nurse can become a member of the Bureau for Nurses of the New York Academy of Medicine, 17 & 21, West Forty-Third Street, New York, after passing a satisfactory examination before the medical board in regard to his work since he left the training school, and by filling in a printed form of application. One of the questions asked is, Give four *names* and addresses of patients you have nursed, also four physicians' addresses you have worked for. A special form is sent to the physicians asking them what class the applicant should be put in and what cases he is best suited for, as they have *three grades* of nurses. When the superintendent receives all the answers they are put before the medical committee of the bureau for nurses and the graduates' club. If the candidate has always given satisfaction to physicians and patients a letter is sent to him informing him that he is elected a member of the Bureau for Nurses of the New York Academy of Medicine, and on registration of the fee, which is £1 per year, he is placed on the list. The rule is not to allow nurses to go out for less than 12s. per day, and often £1 is charged, and in very severe cases, £1 10s. All complaints are sent to the superintendent, and the nurse is at once suspended from the list until the medical board declare their verdict. The bureau is open day and night, and the nurses are sent for by telephone. The superintendent told me just before I left New York he had then over one thousand nurses (male and female) on his list. A Nurses' Directory is published; with the address of nurses in, and left at each drug store in the City.

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