

that, about Easter, presents of flowers, roots, cups and saucers, and so on, are brought to one by people from whom one little expected it.

One of the drawbacks of district nursing is that in serious cases it is difficult to know what is being done in one's absence. With educated people you can generally get your directions followed, but with the poor it is quite chance work. A mother with four or five small children, if taken ill, can scarcely be expected to stay in bed, if there is no one to see after the family, and neighbours do not usually interest themselves sufficiently in another's affairs as to look after a stranger gratuitously. It is wonderful how some people keep themselves tidy and respectable on the small earnings of husband and wife, but often the men, and for that matter women too, take more drink than is good for them, so when illness comes they are destitute of common necessities. One advantage of district nursing is that poor hard working folk do not suffer from nervous ailments; on the other hand neither will they understand when it is necessary strictly to diet a patient. It is almost impossible to make them understand that a small infant is not always hungry when it cries, or that it does not require boiled bread, baked flour, biscuits, or patent foods before it is three months old. It is usually thought that the less milk and the more solid food babies take, the better nourished they will be. It is trying also to hear that a patient you have seen that day is very ill, but did not like to tell you for fear of giving extra trouble; but usually the illness turns out to be nothing very dreadful after all. It is difficult, too, to get linen returned that has been lent out in the district, and one frequently has to go several times before getting it back. One finds it difficult to keep in touch with the times, as district nurses are necessarily isolated from others of their profession, and there is little or no chance consequently of comparing notes with other nurses.

It is important that a district nurse should be a good walker, not easily fatigued, or prone to take chills. Fortunately, there is little night work, except in maternity work, but one does get very tired and weary at times. When reaching home one is likely to be called out to the other side of the district which one has just been visiting, and tramping about in all weathers has its drawbacks; but, should her home life be comfortable, a district nurse has not (take it altogether) a bad time. She must not expect to make a fortune, and if she wants to work comfortably in the place, she must hold her own, whilst being at the same time genial and pleasant to every class of society.

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A Guarantee of Purity.

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE Princess of Wales with her well known sympathy for those who are sick and suffering, has addressed the following kind letter to Mrs. Winter, the wife of the vicar of St. Margaret's, Lynn, in relation to the epidemic of typhoid fever, and it was read on Monday by the Mayor at a public meeting, and greeted with loud applause:—

“ Sandringham, Nov. 12th, 1897.

“ Dear Mrs. Winter,—Hearing of the terrible distress of Lynn, caused by the epidemic of typhoid, I am most anxious to do anything I can for the relief of the sick and suffering, knowing, alas, so much of that fearful and much to be dreaded illness. Will you kindly, therefore, undertake the distribution of the four dozen nightgowns and flannel bed jackets for men and women which I now send? May I ask you to let me know how the poor patients are getting on, and if they have good nurses, which is of the utmost importance, and if there is anything else I can do for them?—Believe me, yours truly,

“ ALEXANDRA.”

It was decided to open a fund, and a committee consisting of the Town Council, those present at the meeting, and a ladies' committee already in existence, was appointed to collect and administer it. The ladies' committee has already collected about £260, but it was stated that as soon as the town fund was started they would close their list. It was agreed that people outside the town should be invited to contribute, and a suggestion was made that the Lord Lieutenants of Norfolk and Cambridgeshire should be asked to assist. At the close of the meeting the promised subscriptions amounted to about £120, in addition to a number of valuable gifts in kind.

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THE Lord Mayor of London has received a letter from the Mayor of Maidstone (Mr. Joseph Barker), requesting him not only as Chief Magistrate, but as a Kent Member, and as a neighbour at Maidstone, to make a renewed effort for the increase of the fund inaugurated by his predecessor. The Lord Mayor, in reply, has expressed his willingness to aid the fund in every possible way. He will be happy to receive at the Mansion House additional donations.

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WE are sorry to hear that two of the nursing sta at Maidstone have contracted enteric fever in th

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