

order to pay the fare one article after another had to be pawned, until her only wrap (a plaid shawl) followed the rest. Neighbours told her of the District Nurse, and having obtained the consent of the Infirmary Doctors, she sent for us. Her wound is now dressed daily, thus saving the poor sufferer pain, expense, and time. Mrs. N.—When the Nurse first visited this case (one of acute rheumatism) the patient was found lying helpless in bed, with her baby, four months old, screaming for want of food, the poor mother being utterly unable to lift it. The eldest boy, a child of seven, stood on a stool to be high enough to reach the tub in which he was trying to do the family washing. Another child of five was cleaning the grate. In this case an Assistant Nurse was sent, who remained all day tending the poor sufferer, looking after the children and household matters, the Trained Nurse of the district calling to supervise her work. Within three weeks the mother was able to be among her family again.”

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“THESE two cases may give a faint idea of what our work is, and how impossible it is to carry it on without ample funds. At the present moment we have 440 patients on our books. Fourteen thoroughly-trained Nurses and eight Assistants are employed in the different districts; but unless our annual subscriptions and donations are much increased, our answer to those who seek our aid in the hour of sickness must be No. And why? Simply for the want of money. Will the whole of Glasgow allow me to ask in vain to help such a cause? Surely not! When so many must remember what it is to watch by the bedside of some loved one stricken down by illness, surrounded by every comfort and luxury that wealth can give, just think what it must be for those who too often lie in their helpless agony without so much as a kind word or gentle hand to soothe them, far less the common necessities of life.”

* * *

DISTRICT Nurses all over the country are doing a great work, but it is, I fear, in most places done in the face of considerable monetary difficulties. In Nottinghamshire, for example, I hear that two years ago as many as six District Nurses and a special Superintendent Nurse were engaged in this work, but during last year, from want of funds, the number was reduced to five, and it was only by the aid of several special donations that the services of the fifth Nurse were retained. Now, through the death of a subscriber of £40 annually, and of several other subscribers, there will be an estimated deficit of £70 at the end of the present year, unless the staff is still further reduced or fresh sub-

scriptions obtained. The cost of five District Nurses, inclusive of superintendence, amounts to £260, whereas the present subscription list is estimated to produce about £190. It is therefore earnestly to be hoped that the public will come liberally forward and provide the funds to retain the five Nurses, and, if possible, increase the number, as there is ample work for at least ten.

* * *

I HEAR that Miss Pell-Smith, the Matron of the Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse District Hospital, has been giving a course of lectures on Nursing, including those details of elementary anatomy and physiology which are necessary for a Nurse to know. They appear to have been much appreciated, and to have been very useful in diffusing a correct idea as to what Skilled Nursing really implies.

* * *

I HEAR that there is expected to be a great gathering of Nurses at the British Nurses' Association meeting to-morrow week, to hear Mrs. Bedford Fenwick read her promised paper upon “The Matron.” In fact, from all I hear, I greatly doubt if there will be standing room, and would suggest that it might be well to obtain a larger room for the occasion. The meeting will begin at eight p.m., and I am requested to draw attention here to the important letter which appears in our correspondence column this week, with reference to this, and other matters relating to the British Nurses' Association. But while speaking about Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, I must remember to mention, for the benefit of those of my readers who do not usually see *The Queen*, that this week's issue of that influential journal contains an article upon “The Profession of Nursing” from the pen of this well-known lady. No description of mine could do justice to its high literary merit, its interesting and condensed information, and to its clearness of description.

* * *

MR. EDITOR has apologised, as I also now do, most sincerely, to Mrs. F. M. G., for describing her as *Miss G.* My only excuse is, that in a cutting sent to me, and which I stated at the time came from some newspaper whose name was not revealed, the name was given as it appeared in our columns. However, I am glad of this opportunity to point a moral. It is often most perplexing to know who the writers of letters we receive may be, and what position they may hold. A letter in a large, firm hand, signed R. Jones, is, for example, answered to R. Jones, Esq., whereupon four pages of indignant remonstrance arrives, in every third line of which *Miss Rebecca Jones* presents her compliments. A letter from C. Robinson,

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