

Professional Review.

DISTRICT NURSING ON A PROVIDENT BASIS.

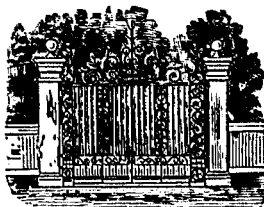
WE have received from Dr. Jamieson B. Hurry, M.A., of Abbotsbrook, Reading, his book on the above subject, and have read it with much interest, as the idea of making District Nursing Associations self-supporting, instead of dependent upon the donations of the charitable, must merit the consideration, and if feasible, the support, of thinking persons. We are inclined to think that the provident system of District Nursing is the real solution of the difficulty so often experienced in obtaining sufficient funds to support District Nursing Institutions. According to Dr. Hurry's calculations £100 per annum will maintain a nurse, and, therefore, to be self-supporting, the contributions of the provident members must amount to this sum. Supposing, therefore, that the nurse was required to attend upon a population of 4000 persons—and experience goes to prove that the services of one nurse will be sufficient for this number—one shilling per annum, from each person, paid in advance, would produce the necessary income. If, however, it is thought that a nurse should be available for every 2000 of the population, then the subscription must be doubled. It is easy, however, when once the principle is established, to vary the amount of the subscription according to the needs of the different localities; the main thing is to see how it is possible to organize the scheme, and this Dr. Hurry successfully demonstrates, besides giving the balance-sheets of various Associations which have been established on a similar basis.

It would be necessary, of course, to lay down a rule that members of the provident club were not entitled to the services of the nurse in cases of an infectious nature, and the same rule, we think, should hold good in maternity cases. We are aware that it is not unusual for a district nurse to combine the nursing of maternity cases with her general work, but we do not think that this plan can be defended. When one considers the kind of cases which largely compose the *clientèle* of the district nurse, it is obviously unsuitable for her to attend lying-in women. At the same time, a club for a nurse who would attend this class of cases only would, we believe, be deservedly popular, or, in Associations where more than one is employed, one nurse might attend to these cases only.

We cannot endorse Dr. Hurry's statement that £100 per annum is a *liberal* salary for a district nurse. That it is a usual salary, and moreover one upon which she can live, we fully admit. But it must be remembered that the district nurse is, or should be, a highly trained woman, that out of this income she has to provide herself with board, lodging, and washing, which will amount to at least £70 per annum if she is to live in any comfort. This leaves her with £30 upon which to dress, defray incidental expenses, pay for her annual holiday, and make provision for the future, when she can no longer work. The same nurse, if she were private nursing, would probably clear £80 a year. We think, therefore, that the salaries offered to district nurses are frequently insufficient to attract the highest class of nurses, and that this is no doubt the reason why the demand for good district nurses is greater than the supply.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Duchess of York has consented to become the patroness of the Surrey Needlework Guild, of which the late Duchess of Teck was president.

Mrs. Flora Annie Steel has been invited to become President, for the ensuing year, of the Writers' Club.

A School of Housewifery, and Training College for Teachers of Domestic Science, is about to be opened in connection with the North Hackney High School for Girls, by Miss Alice James. The scheme is being organized with a view to its being recognized by the Education Department, and it is proposed to afford facilities for training in the following subjects:—Housewifery, cookery, laundry work, nursing, hygiene, management of children, school management, needlework, physiology, natural science, and elementary political economy. The scheme, therefore, is a very comprehensive one. We shall watch its development with interest.

The Pioneer Club has moved into new quarters in Gregton Street, from its old home in Bruton Street.

The office of the new Women's Employment Bureau was opened this week at 60, Chancery Lane; Miss Margaret Batson, so well known by her connection with the *Queen*, is acting as hon. secretary.

The Annual Public Meeting of the Brook Green Women's Total Abstinence Society took place on January 11th at the Wesleyan Church, Shepherd's Bush Road, Hammersmith. The chair was taken by the Rev. W. Cullum, and an encouraging report presented by the Hon. Secretary, Miss Yeldham. Miss M. E. Dócwra and the Hon. Conrad Dillon delivered earnest addresses, and solos were beautifully rendered by Miss Lucie Johnstone.

Lady Henry Somerset has been elected to the governing body of the Almshouses erected at Reigate as a memorial of the Jubilee. The site was given by Lady Henry.

Sir Walter Besant gives in the *Queen* some interesting information concerning one of the literary societies and clubs which are common amongst American ladies. A correspondent informs him that "the largest literary club in New Orleans is called the 'Quarante.' The president, annually elected, arranges every winter the course to be followed. She is often a professional woman of letters. She appoints those members who are to write papers. At all the meetings these papers, always on some literary subject, are read, and a discussion follows. Occasionally, if a stranger of note is visiting the town, he may be invited to address the club, but for the most part the reading and the discussion are done amongst themselves. The club meets alternately at the houses of the different members."

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