

which pleaded for an adequate training for the Nurses of Workhouse Infirmaries, and laying down the same principles which have always been advocated in this Journal. The title of the paper was "Workhouse Nursing: the training of nurses generally, and how the difficulty of training such nurses generally and how the difficulties in the training of such nurses for smaller workhouses can be overcome." Miss Wilkie observed that to any one practically interested in the care of the sick poor in the workhouse infirmaries (a care which should not be limited to their bodies), the need of a radical change must be very apparent, a change, which, to be thorough, must be revolutionary. A primary consideration was the nurse. What was the qualification for a trained nurse? To such a question there was no satisfactory reply. There was no standard. Every hospital set its own. There was neither uniformity of training nor of standard of attainment. That was a fundamental error which might, and ought, to be remedied without delay. Why should the Local Government Board not constitute a Nursing Department, worked by a committee formed of professional and lay members, a committee which should formulate a general scheme of training in detail, and which should be an examining body? All examination questions should emanate from that source. Examinations should be held at fixed intervals, and all papers of answers be returned to, and judged at, headquarters. The time of training should be fixed at four years. During the first two of these years no salary should be paid, board, lodging, washing, and uniform should be provided, and training fees be charged. In order that suitable women might not be debarred from entering the service, scholarships should be established, the funds for the provision of such scholarships to be acquired by capitation grants to each training school. In the succeeding two years further development of character and powers of management and organization should be specially encouraged. A salary should be paid during these two years. The question of all salaries should be under the control of the central authority, who would also be required to draw up general and detailed rules for use in all the infirmaries. Such a scheme, if carried out, would put the training and certification of nurses on a definite basis. There would be a standard of training and a standard of proficiency. The whole cost of Poor Law nursing—salaries, maintenance, grants, travelling expenses—should be borne by the Nursing Department, who should receive a rate, proportionate to the number of sick for whom provision was made, from each parish or union, and could from that source meet all the cost involved in the provision and maintenance of a recognised system of training and nursing. Or the financial arrangements might be altogether—as they are now partially—left in the hands of the County Councils. (Applause.)

The Scarcity of Work.

THE condition of private nursing at the present time is one which demands serious attention. Happily, for the public, there is this year no epidemic such as those which of late winters have made such heavy demands upon private nurses, but the fact is made patent, that unless such epidemics exist, the supply of private nurses, after the summer holidays are over, far exceeds the demand. The Nursing Hostels are at present full to overflowing, and to the nurse working on her own account the problem of how she can make a living becomes a serious one.

A Noble Woman.

THE Nursing Profession has sustained a great loss in the death of Miss Alice Dannatt, who passed away this week after severe suffering, borne heroically. Miss Dannatt was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, "in the old days," and her personality, so full of dignity and kindness, the result of a nature the well springs of which were truth and loyalty, (rare, rare virtues in this age), so commended itself to the authorities of that institution, that she was promoted to be Lady Superintendent, and it was in this responsible position that I first knew her, and learned in daily intercourse to admire the high qualities of her crystal clear character. After several years of arduous work at Manchester, Miss Dannatt was appointed Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Preston, a position in which she found scope for her active mind and organizing powers, and it was with deep grief that she resigned this post in 1882, owing to the frail health of a mother to whom she was united in tenderest affection, and on whom she lavished the most devoted care until her death.

Miss Dannatt combined this charge with much labour for the public good; working actively in Barton-on-Humber, where she lived, as Hon. Superintendent of the District Nursing Association, and keeping in touch with professional matters, by acting as locum tenens for her Matron friends during their holidays. She has written much which is read with both interest and benefit by her colleagues on nursing questions—and her death will leave sorrowing a wide circle of loving friends.

Miss Alice Dannatt was my "second" Matron, and I could never obtain her consent to give to the world any tribute from my pen of the warm admiration and gratitude I have ever felt for her—since those old times—now twenty years ago, when we worked together in harmony, as principal and pupil. Life has taught me many lessons in these intervening years—yet none of more value than those learned from observing day by day, the devotion to duty practised in small things for the general good, by this truly noble woman.

E. G. F.

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