

passed on by the general, to the infectious, hospitals, which, at least in London, are admirably organized, and efficiently nursed, under the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

But the result of this classification and elimination is that many cases which were most valuable as training material, are now not to be found in the general training school; and the probationer at the end of a three years' training, armed with a certificate guaranteeing that she is a trained nurse, may find herself completely ignorant of the nursing of enteric fever and diphtheria, two diseases which need the most careful and skilful attendance. It becomes of importance, therefore, to the nurse who desires to be thoroughly qualified for her profession, to supplement her education by a period of training in a fever hospital, and the time thus spent is certainly well spent.

Again, a nurse with a three years' certificate, usually obtains in a fever hospital the position of charge nurse, which is practically that of ward sister, though this title is not usually given to her. She has, therefore, a valuable opportunity of testing her powers of organization and ward management, and of obtaining experience in this capacity which cannot fail to be of the utmost use to her in her subsequent career.

On the other hand there are, of course, many restrictions. The time off duty is usually one day a week, and the nurse can never go outside the Hospital gate—that is if she fulfils the directions of her Committee, and follows the dictation of her conscience—without going through a lengthy and somewhat wearisome process of disinfection. Again, even when thoroughly disinfected, there are many of her friends, more especially those having children, who will not give her a cordial welcome. Then, again, when holiday time comes, she cannot avail herself of the benefits of the Homes of Rest which are open to other nurses, as the Committees of such homes rightly decline the responsibility of allowing nurses coming from fever hospitals to mix with others from general and even maternity hospitals. Another most real deprivation to a nurse of a literary turn of mind is that of course it is impossible for her to subscribe to a circulating library, and therefore she is debarred from seeing any magazines or books except such as she may buy, or as may be obtainable from the hospital library. For this reason it is of importance that infectious hospitals should

provide their nursing staffs with good libraries, as well as with the principal periodicals and papers, for there could hardly be a greater penance to a book lover than to be deprived of literature of all descriptions; and it is quite impossible for most nurses to buy, out of a very moderate income, upon which there are frequently many calls, more than a very small number of books and papers.

We advise nurses, therefore, to consider these questions before entering an infectious hospital.

At the same time, we in no wise desire to deter them from doing so; on the contrary, we consider that a year's experience or more in a fever hospital is of the utmost value to them.

Annotations.

THE PECULIAR PEOPLE.

THE question as to whether the Peculiar People have the right to carry their peculiarities to the extent of depriving their children of medical assistance in serious illnesses has recently been occupying the attention of a Court consisting of the Lord Chief Justice, and Justices Day, Wills, Grantham, Lawrance, and Wright.

The case under consideration was that of a man named Senior, who was convicted of the manslaughter of his child, an infant of eight or nine months, who died of diarrhoea and pneumonia, medical aid not having been called in, although the father was aware of the gravity of the illness. At the trial, the jury found Senior guilty, but added that he had done all he could for the child except providing medical aid. The judge reserved for the decision of the Court the question as to whether his direction was right, and whether there was evidence upon which the jury could properly convict. Lord Russell having heard counsel for the defence delivered judgment without calling upon the prosecution. He held that it was the father's legal duty to provide medical aid, that the defence that in all other respects the father acted as a reasonable parent was futile, because medical aid was the one thing that was necessary, and that the conviction must be affirmed. The other judges concurring, this was done. Perhaps there is no nation which feels so strongly, as the British do, that the liberty of the subject should be respected, and the law is consequently very slow to interfere with the

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