

nurses of Charity Hospital, Blackwell's Island, offer their services to physicians and surgeons to attend by the hour such cases as require periodical attention, such as attending to dressings, douching, catheterization, bathing, etc., at price of one dollar per hour. Surgical and obstetrical cases attended at \$10 per week, and as many calls made per day as necessary for the comfort of the patient. Preparing and attention during operations or accouchment at 75 cents per hour if for longer period than two hours. Address —. Telephone number —."

All doctors seemed much pleased with the idea, assuring us that there certainly was a wide field for such work and that there would be a great demand for it among those who were limited in means or space, or by those who really needed skilled care but an hour or two during the day. During the first year, however, the demand was not sufficient to keep us all busy, so I drifted back into obstetrical work. I was much disappointed and felt that we must have made some mistake, but finally decided that the small demand for hourly work was mainly due to lack of advertising, and determined to try again.

I made a very thorough trial of it during the summer in the homes of the very poor to see if it would be feasible. I was enabled to do this through the kindness of a dear good friend, who firmly believes that the best we can do for others is to help them to help themselves, and as she is denied the privilege of personal service she took this beautiful way of helping me to help others and try my experiment.

I had the following cards printed to distribute among doctors, in drug stores, and wherever I thought people might inquire in an emergency for a nurse.

The face of the card reads: "Visiting nurse, Miss Grace Forman, Graduate of the New York City Training School, announces that she will do hourly nursing as follows: Obstetrical cases, six hours or less, 3 dols.; remaining with patient all night, 3 dols.; surgical and obstetrical dressings twice daily, 10 dols. per week; general cases, 1 dol. per hour. Address—Telephone—."

I wrote on those given out, "Deserving cases cared for without charge during the summer," and on the reverse side referred to twelve of the doctors who knew me best and who had kindly offered me the use of their names when I told them of the work I had undertaken.

The plan met with the approval of the physicians generally, even the most sceptical acknowledging after one trial that it was most practical in surgical and obstetrical cases.

As my former associates did not join me in this plan, I have had to go through with it alone, and I cannot expect to have doctors send to me with the same confidence that they would to a school or registry, where, if one pair of hands was

occupied, another pair could be supplied, but I have not been without one patient at any time, and have sometimes had more than I could do. I have been nursing in this way nearly a year, and find it far more satisfactory to both patient and nurse than I could have expected in my most sanguine moments. No calls but contagious or male patients have been refused when I had not on my list as many as I could properly care for, but I do not find it very practical in acute medical cases.

I have made from two to nine visits daily, being obliged to take fewer cases when called to remote parts of the city. Going from 136th Street and Fifth Avenue to Greenwich Street, near Christopher, thence to Avenue C and Thirteenth Street were pretty long trips, being seven miles in the first, two in the next and thence to my home fully five miles, and makes one feel like a country doctor. It makes one wish for the "wings of a dove" if it were not for the additional care and expense of disinfecting them.

Having proved its practicability, what the work now needs is to be more widely known and more nurses in the field to do the work, for people are constantly saying to me: "Had I only known of it before, what a comfort it would have been to have had you to relieve the trained nurse we had at such a time, or to have avoided having a nurse at some other time, when we didn't really need one all the time, and hadn't room for her to sleep."

A nurse can easily make seven or eight calls per day, or look after four patients, giving each two calls a day, "an eye-opener and a night-cap," as one doctor expressed it, and at ten dollars per week it is easy to see that if all are paying patients the nurse's income is increased rather than diminished, and the patients receive a trained nurse's care for ten dollars instead of twenty-five, and can thus afford to enjoy poor health oftener than they could a twenty-five dollars per week.

Some of my experiences have been decidedly novel, and seem very amusing to my friends, and although somewhat trying to me at the time, are good stimulants when kept in memory.

One family that was recommended to my care and attention was represented as that of a Baptist minister with five children, whose wife had been paralysed since the birth of the youngest, then ten weeks old. I was told that he was also an artist, but could get nothing to do, as he had to do everything for the family, and take the whole care of the sick wife and baby.

They had no clothes for the baby, and never more than one meal a day, and that a very scanty one—even that having been omitted sometimes of necessity.

A former patient gave me some beautiful baby clothes that her baby had outgrown, and I went

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