

It is very difficult in the rural parts of a new country, where the settlers are separated, often by many miles, from the nearest neighbour. The mother may be ill for weeks with no attendance but such as can be given her by her husband, or the whole burden of nursing and house work falls upon the over-taxed mother if one of her household is stricken down.

It is very difficult to get female domestic servants at any distance from the larger towns, and when illness comes, bringing the inevitable increase of labour and the added burden of anxiety, it is often impossible to obtain assistance of any kind, even when persons are able and willing to pay for it.

Under these circumstances it is easy to imagine what a boon the district nurse would be to those isolated sufferers. What comfort and help and cheer she would bring with her, and how often the aid she could render might suffice to turn the scale from death to life.

A woman who was attended by a nurse of the Victorian Order when her fifth child was born, said she never had had her face and hands washed by anyone when she was ill since her mother had done it for her as a little child. One can fancy the kind of care she must have received in her previous illnesses.

One old woman remarked that it was like a fairy tale to have a trained nurse coming to see her and bringing comfort to a poor old country body like her.

When it is remembered that Canada stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific covering an area of about three and a half million square miles, and that this vast territory is as yet inhabited by between five and six millions of people only, about the same number as the population of London, one realizes the magnitude of the task that faith and love have undertaken in founding the Victorian Order.

A most judicious plan has been followed in its organization. Its flexibility adapts it to the existing conditions, and yet makes ample provision for future growth. It only requires a multiplication of the present factors to meet the utmost demands that can be made upon it.

Training centres are established, each with its own superintendent, who is fitted to supervise the assistant nurses and to train them more perfectly for the difficult work of district nursing. These go out into the adjoining regions to visit the cases where their help is needed.

The nurses who are trained in these homes, after their graduation are sent to villages and into the country to work independently in places where a training home could not be supported. The general superintendent of the order receives constant reports from these isolated nurses of the

progress of their work, and visits them from time to time as occasion demands.

Each candidate for admission to the Order must hold a diploma from a training school for nurses attached to a hospital of a certain recognised standing. She receives, in addition, six months' training in district nursing, and is then eligible for independent duty, and becomes a Victorian nurse. She pledges herself to the work for three years, and receives a salary of three hundred dollars, about sixty pounds, a year.

It may be asked, "What is the necessity for this additional training? Why should nurses who already hold a hospital diploma be required to undergo another six months of arduous preparation for this branch of the service?"

Very few hospitals, at least in America, give their pupil nurses an opportunity to work amongst the poor in their own homes, thus their graduates have no experience of the conditions that exist there, nor of the best way to meet them.

There are two noteworthy exceptions in the United States. The training school for nurses at Waltham, near Boston, is essentially a school for district nurses. It furnished the Superintendent of the Victorian Order, who, although a Canadian, was trained there, as were many other of the Canadian nurses who have begun the work in Canada.

The hospital at Newport, Rhode Island, the fashionable watering-place of the United States, has made district nursing a part of its course of instruction, and every pupil is sent out under the supervision of a competent teacher to gain a practical knowledge of this work by doing it herself. No doubt, in time, it will become an indispensable part of the curriculum of every training school for nurses, but at present it is not so.

A district nurse is thrown upon her own resources in a way that never happens within the walls of a hospital, and very seldom at a private case, with a physician in close attendance. If her readiness of resource is not equal to the demand upon it, if her training has not fitted her to make the most of the scanty materials at her command, or to be fully equal to grapple unassisted with any ordinary emergency that may arise, her patient's recovery will be retarded, if life itself is not endangered.

It is thus obvious that training homes are a necessary feature in the organization of the Victorian Order. There are at present three of these training centres, one at Montreal, one at Toronto, and one at Halifax, each with its own superintendent and corps of nurses. In one instance, at Montreal, there are two graduate nurses and six probationers; in the other cities, the work is done by probationers, who are

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