

The nurses have been of great use in the care of sick children. There is an inflammation of the eye, called "ophthalmia neonatorum," which attacks very young babies under certain circumstances. If the eyes are not faithfully attended to and kept scrupulously clean, there is a great danger of the sight being destroyed. This the nurses have been the means of preventing in the cases under their charge, and many infants have been saved from the calamity of blindness by their unremitting vigilance. They teach the poor mothers how to care for and especially how to feed their babies. Those who know anything of the statistics of infant mortality can testify that improper food and wrong methods of feeding lie at the root of the appallingly high death rate which prevails amongst children under two years of age. If they can help in the smallest degree to check this waste of life, the maintenance of district nurses is justified, if they did no other good in the world.

Now that nursing has attained to the dignity of a profession, one that gives full scope to the energies of an educated woman, its followers should devote themselves to its organization and development.

Much remains to be done in perfecting the training of pupil nurses, in exacting a higher standard of work in graduate nurses, in cultivating an *esprit de corps* amongst them, and a high sense of professional honour.

There should be an extension of the national association of superintendents of training schools for nurses. Both large and small hospitals should be represented. These should meet frequently in council, and should be the leaders of thought, the first to adopt and forward whatever would contribute to the advancement of the profession.

The formation of orders like the Victorian Order is a step in the right direction. It binds the isolated units into one strong whole, and gives to the individual nurse the support which comes only from being an integral part of a corporate body.

DISCUSSION.

LADY ABERDEEN expressed regret that Professor Osler, who was to have opened the Discussion, was unfortunately detained.

PROFESSOR JAMES ROBERTSON, of Canada, said:— I have very little to add to Miss Scovill's paper. Canada is a very large place, though as yet thinly populated; but the Victorian Order is helping to found Homes in Canada which will help the civilisation of the Empire, two centuries hence. We have lots of land to grow food, to make wholesome, healthy bodies; we want more people, but we are anxious that the homes already there shall be of the very best sort. The pioneers who found homes in lonely places need

the most help, for pioneers are lonesome persons, even the pioneers of a good movement in the very heart of civilisation: and while people of many sorrows, and acquainted with grief as many leaders are, they have the satisfaction of being conquerors in the best sense of the word. We want a Training Home where the nursing of the poor is provided for, and this could not be done before the organisation of the Victorian Order. People who could not be taken from their homes to a hospital, and who were too poor to hire a trained nurse, suffered very severely; it was a real reproach to the people of Canada that only the rich could get trained nurses. Now the poor are almost as well off, and we have also a provision to give help to the most distant settlers in Canada. Canada owes the founding of the Victorian Order to the foresight and energy of Lady Aberdeen, and I could give various instances showing how successful the work of the Nurses has been in Canada from the testimony of medical men, and those who know the value of their services to the community.

MRS. NORRIE (Denmark) said: I am not at all prepared to speak on this subject. Some twenty-five years ago, the chief physician of one of our General Hospitals, asked a lady he knew to go in for hospital nursing. She did this, and then took up District Nursing, and organised it in one of the suburbs of Copenhagen. I am sorry to say that Denmark, which in many other respects compares well with other countries, is behind them as regards nursing. The District nurses do not receive more than six months' training, and then go straight to work. There are nurses in almost every district in Denmark, but the training is poor; and in Copenhagen itself, the nursing is not of so high a standard as here.

DR. SARAH HACKETT STEVENSON (Chicago) said: I am extremely interested in this subject, having helped to form the first Training School in Chicago. Some twenty-five years ago, having seen the work of the Training School at St. Thomas's, I went home so full of enthusiasm, that I talked to my friends until we organised the Training School for Nurses at Illinois—the first ever organised in that State. Out of that has grown the District Nursing in the city, and we have a fund belonging to the School, by means of which we maintain a certain number of nurses, who go to people unable to afford the fees asked by some of our trained nurses. This fund is called the Cleaver Fund, and originated from some money left to the Hospital by Mrs. John Cleaver. These nurses go to respectable families at from three to five dollars a week; we are very much pleased with the work they are doing, and it has been a great blessing to the community.

MRS. MACDONALD (Secretary of the Hoxton District Nursing Association) said: I would like to say a few words about what the Queen's Nurses are doing. Our Home is affiliated to the Queen's Jubilee Institute. Much district nursing was started before the Queen's Jubilee, and much goes on now that is not affiliated to that Institute, though I think most of the district nursing is on the way to affiliation. They have 900 nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and about 400 different Associations are affiliated. Perhaps the most striking feature is the high standard of nursing. Theoretically, these nurses have one year's training, but in practice they have two years in hospital. Then they must have six months' training in an approved Home before they are allowed to nurse on their own

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