

MISS MAXWELL thought there was a widespread lack of gentle manners among nurses, against which they need to guard themselves.

MISS McKECHNIE thought that in sending nurses to private cases, even for moderate rates, there was the danger of encouraging the idea that pupils ought to bring in an income to the hospital. She and Mrs. Robb agreed that it was not in place for a school to consider the nursing either of the rich or poor as such, but only the education of the pupil.

MISS GOODRICH thought that nurses in training needed to have insight into the conditions of various kinds of life, and advocated district nursing work in connection with social settlements as broadening and developing the nurses' character.

The President thought that the care of the sick poor and those of small means was something with which the whole profession should concern itself, and that nurses were often accused of not caring for such people.

MISS NUTTING told how the nurses in Baltimore were trying to reach them in the hourly nursing.

MISS McISAAC described the working of the Crerar Fund in Chicago. Fifty thousand dollars had been bequeathed to the Illinois Training School for its uses. As, however, the school was nearly self-supporting through its contracts with two large hospitals, where it undertook the nursing, the managing board, all of whom were women, set aside this legacy for the purpose of providing nurses for people of limited means. No pupils were sent from the school, but graduates were employed, and these were paid the average rate of three dollars a day. Such money as was paid by the patients for the nurses' services, and which was in proportion to their incomes, was added to the income from the fund. No special graduates were retained for this work, but there were always many who asked to be sent to these cases. Such a method is just both to patient and nurse. It, however, requires an endowment to begin with.

MISS BANFIELD: The best way to provide properly trained nurses for people of moderate means is an important question, and one which others outside our association are also discussing, and providing for in a way which I shall be glad to bring to your notice.

In Philadelphia, the "Philadelphia Nurse Supply Association" has been quite widely advertising itself this winter. It appears to be promoted by a homoeopathic physician, who has offices in one of the large commercial buildings—Witherspoon Hall. I regret to say that three or four members of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia have lent this association the support

of their names, and some of them have actually delivered lectures. I was also invited to lecture, and was offered payment for my services. I had already investigated the thing sufficiently to convince myself that it was dangerously misleading to the public, although possibly the laymen who lent their names, had not grasped this; I know that the vice-president of the Association and also one of the medical lecturers, stated to me that they had never seen the circular of information issued to applicants to these classes until I showed it to them, nor were they aware of the claims put forth therein. They have not, however, since withdrawn their names. It is regrettable that men of honest reputation should lend themselves without due inquiry to such a "get-rich-quick" scheme of "Nurse Supply," as the one under discussion, for it appears easier to get into these things than it does to get out of them.

I went down to the advertised office of this association to inquire about it. At a meeting afterwards held by Superintendents of Training Schools in Philadelphia, it transpired that three other women had done likewise. We all had an amusing time. I was told that in a ten weeks' course of lectures (four lectures a week), I could learn how to take care of "any ordinary case of sickness." I asked what was to be done should the patient become extraordinarily sick, but this was apparently considered an idle supposition. No practical work was required, but I might visit the poor if I liked. Would do so by myself, and not under instruction. All necessary instruction, the "clerk of the class department" told me, was supposed to have been acquired at the lectures. (The poor poor! I wonder what crime they had committed over and above the rest of us, that they should be so afflicted! Possibly those amongst us who have endeavoured to administer the domestic departments of a hospital with the aid of a well-meaning but—well, we will say *theoretically* instructed—Ladies' Aid Society, are the only people who can properly sympathize with the poor under this wealth of theoretical advice and ministrations!)

I was also told that a former member of the class was travelling with her patient in Europe, and receiving fifteen dollars a week. Another inquirer was told that a former member of these classes held a position which had been applied for by no less than 300 trained nurses, and so on. It seemed a pity to me that I had spent five or six years in practical and theoretical study of my profession when it could (according to these medical and lay gentlemen), have been learned in ten weeks, and diplomas provided, on payment of a fee of twenty-five dollars!

(To be continued.)

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