

We have previously reported that a Daily Visiting Nursing Association has been organised in Marylebone, concerning the aims of which a letter will be found in our correspondence columns from the Dowager Countess of Desart, who is the Hon. Treasurer of the Society. The Committee consists of twenty-four ladies, amongst them Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., with H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife as President. At present one nurse is available; resident at 10, Montague Place, W.

The Association believes that this nurse will meet a real want, as there are so many flats and small houses in the district where there is no possible accommodation for a resident nurse. We are quite sure they are right, and many nurses might engage in daily nursing to the advantage of the middle classes. That they have not done so in London to any great extent results, no doubt, from the fact that it is difficult to do so upon their own responsibility, and be sure of making both ends meet. The majority of the nurses we know engaged in daily nursing combine massage with nursing work and thus make a fair income; and they are members of nursing institutes and co-operations, and not isolated workers.

We could have wished to see the names of some experienced trained nurses on the Committee of Management of the Marylebone Association. The day has gone by when the usefulness of expert knowledge can be ignored in associations which profess to manage professional workers, and we know no parish in London better able to afford expert representation than Marylebone.

It is interesting to learn that Army nurses in this country are under Army Orders, and in case of delinquency are liable to be court-martialled as any other officer in His Majesty's Army. It is satisfactory to know that since the foundation of the Army and Indian Army Nursing Services—now to be amalgamated as Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service—no court-martial of a Nursing Sister has ever been held.

We are sorry to see that the Middlesbrough Guardians have confirmed the minutes of the Workhouse Committee, which recommended that a request of some of the nurses of the workhouse to be known as "Sisters" should not be acceded to. Discipline is more easily maintained by those of superior official rank, and there is no doubt that the title "Sister" and the authority it confers are useful aids in supporting good order in hospital wards.

There appears to be some difference of opinion between the Medical Staff and the Matron at the Swansea Hospital as to the wisdom of compelling probationers to sign for a term of four years' service. At a recent meeting of the Board of Management Dr. Brook, on behalf of the Hon. Medical Staff,

moved that the House Committee be recommended to instruct the Matron in future to engage probationers for the term of four years instead of three. He stated that it was not now possible to obtain more than one-fifth of the nurses required for Swansea and district locally. As a matter of fact, the last five he had had occasion to engage came from outside the town, with one exception. The Matron had told him there would be no difficulty in getting probationers for four years, and he thought it would be a great advantage. Two nurses had been shown to bring into the hospital a revenue of about £50 every year!

Col. Morgan stated that the Matron had informed him that she thought she would be unable to get probationers on the terms suggested. Her idea was that they should be engaged for three years' training in the hospital, and one year's private nursing. Miss Dillwyn pointed out that it was largely a question of whether they should take on private nursing. She advised reference to the House Committee, which was agreed to.

Now, if £50 a year can be abstracted from two nurses' earnings by the Swansea Hospital Committee, it does not take one long to calculate that their labour was sweated in the most unjustifiable manner, and we regret most sincerely to observe such treatment of nurses advocated by Dr. Brook. If he cannot get nurses in Swansea, we presume the reason is that nurses cannot earn a self-supporting salary—and our advice to the Committee and Medical Staff of the hospital is to try and help the local nurses to a living wage. To the nurses we recommend that those who hold three years' certificates of training should form themselves into a co-operation in a central home, and inform the medical faculty at Swansea that they are prepared to do their work—and take their own fees. Surely such an arrangement is just and simple, and should command the support of every medical man in the town. To put it mildly, how would medical men like to pay cent. per cent. of their honest earnings towards the support of the General Hospital?

A movement in which Mrs. Charles Hobhouse is taking an active part has been inaugurated in Kingswood, Bristol, with much success, for the purpose of bringing skilled nursing help within reach of the artisan and middle classes. In commemoration of the Coronation a home has been opened in connection with which three nurses working under a lady superintendent will be employed. The nurses will visit the patients daily in their own homes, and fees varying from 1d. to 25s. will be charged to all patients who can afford to pay. The scheme has the support of all the medical men working in the district, who have for many years past realised the need for skilled nursing assistance for the poor of the neighbourhood.

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