

have a fire ready, a very important matter in a labour-room. Open the window top and bottom; and if your patient is in another room, open the door as well, so as to get a good current of air through it. You cannot do this at night; but you can and should attend to the window-opening, in order to renovate the air of the room as much as possible. Remove all slops, and see that there is a good supply of cold water in the toilet jugs. Have a *kettle in the room*, and keep it well replenished, so as to have hot water ready without the slightest delay. See that there are clean hand-towels, soap, nail-brush, and a pot of vaseline (carbolated is the best). If there are any clothes about the room, have them put away; and if in the day-time, get one of the servants to help you clear up any litters about, and have everything dusted and made clean and tidy. You will also require assistance in making up the bed, after the bed linen has been thoroughly aired.

(To be continued.)

### REGISTRATION OF NURSES IN AMERICA.

THE following article is a condensation, prepared by one of our highly esteemed readers and correspondents in Buffalo, New York, of several opinions which have been obtained from local general Medical practitioners and leading Nurses of the district relative to this most important subject. Only a few of the most prominent Physicians, who are credited with giving the bulk of the employment to Trained Nurses and who speak highly as a body in their favour, were visited, so the opinions here expressed are those of the "rank and file" of the Medical profession; and as such, dealing more with the middle-class people, they have a particular value.

Our correspondent informs us that "the demand for Trained Nurses by private families has greatly exceeded the supply during the past few months; indeed, it has been very difficult to find any at leisure or out of employment."

We consider this contribution of peculiar worth, and feel sure that our readers will appreciate our correspondent's kindness and trouble in sending to us this epitome of opinions of those in practice and interested in the Nursing work of her city.

"The attention of persons interested in Nursing affairs has recently been called to articles appearing in several issues of the *Buffalo Sunday News*. A reporter interviewed a number of Medical practitioners in this city, to ascertain their views regarding a Register for untrained or so-called

'professional' Nurses; also for and against Hospital Trained Nurses.

"Dr. L. thought a Register for 'professional' Nurses would enable the poorer classes to obtain the services of good Nurses at reasonable rates, while the nabobs can pay fifteen dollars a week if they choose.

"Dr. D. favoured such a Register, where experienced Nurses could be secured, 'who are willing to do something else, perhaps, besides taking temperatures, feeling pulse, and administering the medicine.'

"Dr. C. considered such a Register desirable, as many Trained Nurses will do nothing but *nurse*; and there are a good many people who cannot afford to pay fifteen dollars a week for a Nurse and hire a girl besides. He thinks that the average Trained Nurse knows a great deal more than the Physician, and his experience with them had not been specially successful. In his opinion a few male Nurses would find employment.

"Dr. P. liked the idea of such a Register, and often experienced difficulty in obtaining Nurses. He said Trained Nurses are well enough for those patients who are able to pay for them, but the untrained or 'professional' Nurses are also needed.

"Dr. W. has the names of a few 'professional' or untrained Nurses, who are practical and reliable in every way. He considered Trained Nurses a luxury. They do not expect to do anything but attend the patient—never so much as arrange a room or make their own beds, and sometimes even demand to have their meals served in their own rooms.

"Dr. M., Surgeon Sisters of Charity Hospital, was very much in favour of Trained Nurses, as they are a great help to the profession in detecting symptoms, and watching intelligently the effect of medicines. He prefers *in*experienced Nurses to those with a little knowledge, as the latter invariably use their own discretion and old-fashioned remedies, while the Trained Nurse does her work on a basis of good training in Surgical work.

"Mrs. Dr. M. has found both Trained and 'professional' Nurses helpful. The former have the advantage of Surgical experience; but sometimes patients cannot afford them, or prefer a 'professional' Nurse, and sometimes Hospital Nurses are all engaged.

"Dr. H. said Trained Nurses draw higher wage and deserve it, but many patients can afford an ordinary 'professional' Nurse, when a Trained Nurse would be beyond their means.

"Dr. F. P. L., oculist, favours a gradation of experience and prices, as some cases require a

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