

which it is designed. A private house has been adapted by adding a wing containing twenty-one bedrooms. In the district nurses' store-rooms linen and loan appliances are stored. In the rear of this block is an isolation block for the use of nurses returning from infectious cases, and arrangements are made for the disinfection of clothing. Patients are also received in this block.

The Home aims at bringing skilled nursing within the range of all the residents of Ipswich and the neighbourhood. Its primary object is, however, to give free nursing to the poor. The cost of this is covered partly by subscriptions and partly by the profits of the private nursing branch. We hope the Committee will dispense in the near future with the latter source of revenue, and realise that there should be no profits in a private nursing society, but that all surplus after expenses are defrayed belongs by right to the women who have earned it, and who need all they earn to maintain themselves when their working days are over.

The Home is fortunate in its Lady Superintendent, Miss Hunt, who has earned by her work on its behalf the confidence of the Committee and the supporters of the Institute.

We note with pleasure that at the annual meeting of the Leicester Institution of Trained Nurses it was stated that the accounts of the private nursing branch are kept quite distinct from those of the district nursing branch. This is as it should be.

Speaking on Workhouse Nursing at the Eastern District Poor Law Conference at the Town Hall, Colchester, last week, Dr. J. A. Fraser characterised the proposal of the Departmental Committee on Nursing in Workhouses to abolish the status of the assistant nurse, and substitute the title "qualified" nurse, for probationers who had completed one year's training and obtained a certificate at a minor school, as a blot on the Report. It was a mere sham and imposition, and manifestly likely to do a great amount of harm, and bring discredit on Poor Law Infirmaries as training-schools for nurses. It would also place a nurse who had contracted for three years' training before qualifying as trained at a manifest disadvantage.

Miss Louisa Twining, whose opinion on workhouse nursing matters is always entitled to respect, writes to the Press, urging the following reforms in the organisation of the Poor Law Nursing Service:—

"We desire to see more special attention given by the Central Board to the nursing arrangements, which are now the chief difficulty; and for this object we ask for a sub-department, or committee for nursing matters, on which women should act as advisers, by

whatever name they should be called; for who but they can have any real knowledge of nursing and its difficulties? Then we ask for the appointment of a training scheme, under the control of the department; such, with all the prestige it would carry, would enlist an ample supply of probationers, who would be trained in our largest infirmaries for three years, and bound for four more years, at least, for Poor Law work; to this central committee all boards of guardians would appeal; the enormous cost of advertising would be saved, and an undoubted supply obtained. Our present most wasteful plan of training for two or three years, and the probationers at once leaving Poor Law work for some more attractive sphere, would be done away with, and the service would become an attractive and honourable one. May I add that women inspectors of nursing are also earnestly recommended for all, but especially for country, workhouses?"

On these points Miss Twining says there is a remarkable and almost unanimous testimony on the part of members of the Workhouse Nursing Association, which has had twenty-four years' experience, and of others who have had long knowledge and trial of present plans.

The allegations that an infectious case discharged from the Jenny Lind Hospital at Norwich was the means of introducing scarlet fever into the Erpingham district is no doubt receiving the attention of the authorities of the hospital. At a recent meeting of the Erpingham Rural District Council the Rev. H. C. Fitch, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, reported that scarlet fever had been introduced into the district by children sent home from the Jenny Lind Infirmary. Two cases had occurred within three months, and he thought an explanation was needed.

In one case it was alleged that after a child had been in the institution for ten weeks, having been sent in for the treatment of a diseased hip, the parents were asked to get some relation who had no children to take the child, who was recovering from scarlet fever. The father wrote that he could find no one, that he had four children at home, and that his wife was about to be confined. Four weeks later he had peremptory orders to fetch the child home. It was suffering from an abscess in the neck, and within a fortnight three of the children previously healthy developed scarlet fever. There was no fever in the parish, and there was no doubt that the child sent home from the hospital introduced it. If the circumstances are as alleged, it would appear that the nursing arrangements of the hospitals in question are very defective

It is often a matter of surprise to us that nurses who have obtained a three years' certificate of training should rest content without acquiring further knowledge. It would be wisdom to try to obtain

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