

Nursing Echoes

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Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, draws attention in the Press to the fact that to a large extent phthisis is a poor man's disease, and points out that there is a growing feeling that our present system of medical relief is altogether inadequate to cope with it. Again, if charity be worthy of itself, it is essentially progressive, and as science moves

on it has continually to reorganise its methods. This is conspicuously so in regard to phthisis. In phthical cases, as in a degree in very many others also, not one problem, but a combination of problems, has to be solved. And, if our work is to be successful, a method has to be adopted which will ensure this complex solution of our difficulties.

With this object, the following conditions have to be met in phthical cases as part of one system of treatment. There must be very careful and complete diagnosis so that patients in the earlier stages are selected—those and those only who are likely to benefit permanently from treatment at a sanatorium. Residence at the sanatorium must be sufficiently long to allow of the disease being thoroughly mastered, and the conditions must be such as to minimise anxiety for those left at home. A knowledge of the home and the home circumstances of the patient must therefore be forthcoming, so that the family may, if necessary, be helped, the spread of the disease prevented, and the breadwinner kept in health on his return. A knowledge of the employment of the patient is also required, of his work and his workshop, that on his return he may be employed at his old or at a new trade under healthful conditions.

Here, therefore, as in almost all good medical relief, the home and local organisation have to supplement the hospital or sanatorium—the specialised organisation. Without one the other fails. The case must be treated as a whole, and kept under supervision for such a time as may be necessary to counteract the disease. The new method of science requires a new method of organisation.

In the scheme advocated by Sir William Broadbent at the recent meeting at Surrey House, and

most usefully illustrated by Sir Douglas Powell, and by Dr. Burton Fanning in reference to the Kelling Sanatorium, due weight is given to all these factors; and Miss Nussey showed by her work as almoner at the Westminster Hospital how very greatly, so far as hospitals are concerned, a competent trained almoner is able to forward the plan—acting as a link between the doctor who sees the patient at the hospital and the local Charity Organisation committee and friendly visitor, who care for the patient, the family, and the home, and send the patient to the sanatorium, and the result is eminently satisfactory. On this plan, so far as it can be ascertained at present, more than half of the patients—about 60 per cent.—recover, and are able to earn their own livelihood again—a far better result than is obtainable otherwise. The scheme thus represents a most useful social experiment. Mr. Loch pleads earnestly for “liberal gifts” to this end from those who care for the poor.

A garden party was recently given at the Kent and Canterbury Institute for Trained Nurses, on the invitation of the House Committee, to witness the presentation of a testimonial in the shape of a piano to Miss Shaw, who has vacated the office of Lady Superintendent after twelve years' work. Nurse Alice Pereira, who had also served the Institute for twelve years, was entitled to a gratuity of £10. The Bishop of Dover presided and made the presentations. He congratulated Miss Shaw on her successful career, expressed the Committee's regret at losing her services, and the pleasure of her many friends in presenting this mark of their regard. He could not hand over the piano because it had not yet been purchased, owing to the fact that Miss Shaw intends to spend another winter abroad for the complete restoration of her health before settling down in an English home, but he gave symbolical possession by handing to her a silver plate which will eventually be affixed to the piano, and on which the following words are engraved:—

“Presented to Miss Shaw

on her retirement after twelve years of zealous work, as Lady Superintendent of the Kent and Canterbury Nurses' Institute, by her many friends in Canterbury and its neighbourhood,
June, 1904.”

The Bishop also handed to her an illuminated list of the names of the subscribers. He took the opportunity of welcoming the new Lady Superintendent, Miss Steen, and proceeded to hand the cheque of £10 to Nurse Alice Pereira, congratulating her and the nurses generally on the good work that they are doing, and the general esteem in which they are held. After the presentation, Miss Steen and the nurses entertained their guests at tea. Mr. Court's band was in attendance, the weather was all that could be desired, and a very enjoyable

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