

excellent report. The journal gives a clear and concise account of the various items of importance with which the League has been concerned since the last number was issued, notably its affiliation with the Provisional Committee of a National Council of Nurses for this country.

The following is the synopsis of subjects for discussion by the Debating Society connected with the League next year:—

The Nursing of Tuberculosis in the Open Air, with special reference to people of moderate means.

The Right Use of Books.

The Nursing of Gastro-Enterotomy.

What opportunities have Private Nurses for Self-Improvement?

What are the Duties of a Nurse in Preparing for an Operation in a Private House?

Influenza and its Complications.

Is Nursing a Profession? If not, why not?

Should Nurses spend their Holidays in Professional Company or not?

Why are Private Nurses so little able to adapt themselves to circumstances?

The *Daily News* says:—"If the London County Council has made a concession in regard to the gymnastic training for teachers who happen to be nuns, on account of their dress, it may be pointed out, as a sort of set off (a correspondent writes) that one order of nuns in London has altered its distinctive dress in the public interest. The nuns of the Mercy Order, whose headquarters are at Dockhead, Bermondsey, do not wear the same kind of dress as the sisters of the Order in Ireland, though they belong to the same foundation.

The explanation is interesting. When Miss Florence Nightingale was going out to the Crimea, just fifty years ago, the Sisters of Mercy at Dockhead, Bermondsey, volunteered to help her in her nursing work. Several of them accompanied Miss Nightingale to the East, leaving Dockhead at a few hours' notice. The dress they wore before leaving for the East was not suitable for hospital work, so it was altered, though retaining much of its original character.

The altered costume is still worn by the Mercy nuns in London at the present time, who have good reason, indeed, to be proud of it.

It has been maintained that the "nurses" connected with Rural Nursing Associations are not regarded as trained nurses, and that those who show aptitude for the work, at the end of their agreement with Rural Associations enter General Hospitals for their three years' training. We draw attention, therefore, to the Annual Report of the Bedfordshire Rural Nursing Association presented to the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Association, which states:—

"The nurses, after completing their three years' service, have no difficulty in obtaining appointments with excellent salaries, as the Secretary has constant applications for these nurses. For example, nurses have obtained appointments as district nurses at salaries of £60 and £70 per annum, others have been employed in institutions as resident nurses at excellent salaries; some have taken up monthly nursing under doctors and have done well." Miss Burton, of the Nurses' Home, Plaistow, the lady who conducted the inspections, reported:—"As inspector I was on the whole pleased with the way in which I found the nurses doing their work. The time given to the training of the nurses is not long enough to be quite satisfactory. One nurse complained of overwork during her training, and this is one of the drawbacks connected with the six months' training. There is so much to learn, as well as so much practical work to be done in the six months, that the work is of necessity continuous, with little time for pause or rest through the day, or night either, for pupils in midwifery. They must get in all their cases, and they must have three months of their time on the district, learning something of general work, both medical and surgical. It is wonderful what their uneducated minds do assimilate in those three months, some with greater success, of course, than others. But it is not sufficient for all they have to learn."

Mr. Guy Pym expressed his surprise that there was a difficulty in obtaining candidates for the nursing scholarships offered. That was Greek to him. He did not understand it. When, after completing three years' service, these nurses were able to command salaries of £60 and £70 a year, the Association seemed to have created a material which was of great value, and when these nurses had got a future assured, it should not be difficult to obtain candidates with such a prospect before them.

Mr. Marks said, in reference to the statement that six months' training was not enough—everyone knew that, but it was better than nothing. Six months' training was all the Association could give, and they could not have done that if the County Council had not given them £120 per annum.

We draw attention to this report because it is evident that these insufficiently-trained nurses, after obtaining some experience in the cottages of the sick poor, are encouraged to undertake, and do undertake, ordinary nursing work. What inducement is there for women to qualify themselves thoroughly for their work when they are able to obtain nursing appointments on such insufficient training. The sooner the minimum amount of training entitling a woman to rank as a trained nurse is defined by law the better for all concerned.

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