

bers among the public, who assist the good work in this manner.

Its activity at present comprises:—

1. Monthly meeting of the members.
2. An Office and Home for private nurses.
3. A Home for nurses receiving supplementary training.
4. Help towards supplementary training.
5. Sick club and help for convalescents.
6. Loan fund.
7. Dietetic cooking classes.
8. A Journal of Nursing.
9. A Home of recreation for nurses.
10. A burial fund.

I will now specify the different parts of the work.

The Office and Home for Private Nurses was originally built on a plan of nursing by the hour, as it was supposed that many patients of small means would not care to have a nurse for the whole day. In many cases it would suffice for a nurse to come in the morning and evening, or to stay for an hour once in the day to arrange the patient, make the bed, attend to dressings, &c.

There were likewise many elderly nurses who no longer could stand night duty or full nursing without being quite unfit for work. Such nurses might well manage some nursing visits daily, thus still earning their bread, besides affording cheap aid to the sick. The plan worked well and practically. In the first year four or five Sisters paid about 4,000 such visits.

Many other private nursing societies took up this kind of work, and our part in it has in consequence diminished, but we had become known most favourably both to physicians and to the sick, who only regretted that no nurses were to be had for full nursing. After many applications the office took up this branch of nursing, and many Sisters are now actually engaged in full nursing. But many more might be employed if they were forthcoming. It is to be hoped that the numbers of nurses will increase. These nurses are only taxed 5 per cent. against 10 or 15 in other associations, and find it a pecuniary advantage to be employed by our office. Rooms are to be had for the Sisters at the Home, and on their free days they can take their meals there, and enjoy pleasant companionship.

A Home for nurses receiving a finishing course at a hospital or a lying-in institution is also connected with the office.

This supplementary training is a most important part of our work.

Owing to the want of system in the training received at the hospitals, there were formerly many private nurses who had only a partial training, either solely surgical or medical. These nurses, if well recommended and capable, now receive the lacking instruction by means of the Society, not only the surgical and medical, but also special courses in the

treatment of skin diseases, of nervous and mental disorders, and the care of puerperal patients.

Some get a year or six months, others only a few months of supplementary training, besides free station and an allowance for the time. During the last year thirty-five Sisters have been assisted by the Society, and twenty-five have been domiciled at the office.

The office contains, besides the home for private nurses with the bedrooms, a common dining-room and a sitting-room, with a piano. Many foreign and home periodicals are laid out for perusal. The sick club is recognised and assisted by the Government, and private as well as hospital Sisters are admitted as members and aided in case of illness.

From the loan fund nurses can obtain loans free from interest when in difficulties, owing to illness or when they lack means to study nursing in foreign countries.

The Society has lately instituted dietetic and cooking classes for the benefit of the great number of nurses who lack skill in the preparation of food, and sorely miss this knowledge in private nursing. As will be seen by this account, every effort is made to train the Sisters as thoroughly and comprehensively as possible, and to raise their standard.

The popularity of the nurses became evident three years ago when a collection was made for a "Home of Recreation" for the Sisters. The want of such a home had often been felt by the many nurses who had no family home and no means to board in the country.

A large, beautifully-situated plot of land was presented to the Society, and in a few months money enough was in hand for the building of the house. This house was inaugurated in September, 1904, and is kept open all the year. It can take in twenty Sisters. It contains many spacious, handsome bedrooms for one or two persons, sitting-room with closed and open verandah, a dining-room, and many balconies. The nurses only pay a minimum for their board, and it is hoped that free places will be founded by means of legacies. The Sisters look forward to many enjoyable and comfortable vacations in their own Home.

The Journal of Nursing, published by the Society, has proved itself to be an invaluable medium for assimilating the nurses individually with the whole class. It is edited by a former sick nurse, and is sent to all members. It has also other subscribers.

Once a month (with the exception of the four summer months) an assembly is held for the members. The entertainment consists in instructive lectures, discussions of professional matters, musical and vocal contributions, readings, or other cheerful pastimes.

These assemblies are frequented by a great number of Sisters, and greatly promote a feeling of unity.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)