

Why lay so much stress on the *nursing*? Surely the nursing is a *pis aller*, and it is the cleaning of the house, the care of the children, the cooking for the husband, the domestic labour, in fact, which is of importance (though it would be interesting to know why the mother is always the invalid in rural districts). Then why encourage these useful cottage helps to pose as nurses? Let them realise that they are not nurses, but useful domestic workers, and a vast amount of mischievous misrepresentation would cease.

Trained nurses have no greater enemies to the definition of a standard of professional nursing than the lay persons who hire and patronise these cottage nurses, and the fact that there are 200 associations working on the Holt-Ockley system in different parts of the kingdom, employing 500 cottage nurses, proves how necessary it is that their employers should be educated to understand that "skilled" nursing is not scrubbing, cleaning, and cooking, and that hands so employed may convey disease and death to the patient, the danger to the lying-in woman being greatest of all.

One constantly hears complaints of the management of Nursing Homes, and we have before drawn the attention of our readers to the folly of commencing such a business without adequate funds, as efficient nursing is an expensive matter. The result of such improvidence was exhibited in the Halifax County Court last week, when the proprietress of the "Nurses' Home" had to submit to a public examination before the Registrar.

The statement of affairs showed liabilities £458 11s. 4d., and the assets £9 9s. 2d. Examined by the Deputy Official Receiver, the debtor stated that she commenced a "Nurses' Home" in 1898, with a capital of only a few pounds. She bought the home and the business (the furnishings, &c.) for £179. She had an overdraft on the Halifax Bank, but had an account also with a Manchester bank. She was practically clear of debt when she opened the Home. Her business was to supply nurses when and where required. She drew their fees, paid them, and kept them in the Home when not employed. At first she had about eleven nurses, and on an average she had eight out nursing. She charged for the nurses 25s. per week for non-infectious cases and one and a-half guineas per week for infectious cases. She paid the nurses about £34 a year, and gave them three weeks' holiday during the year. She did very well at first, but afterwards business fell off. The cause of her failure was the starting of a rival establishment by a nurse who was formerly with her. She gave a bill of sale on October 29th last; in doing this she had in view the sale of the business. The rental of 4, Savile Terrace was

£40, and, of course, rates, &c., would bring it up to from £60 to £70. There were now no unpaid accounts due to her.

Several useful lessons can be learnt from these facts. One, and a very important one, that it is impossible to provide trained nurses at 25s. a week to the public, if they are to receive just remuneration in salary, board, and lodging; and next, that to attempt business without capital inevitably spells failure in these days of keen competition.

At a recent meeting of the subscribers to the Wetheral District Nursing Fund, Mrs. Scott was elected treasurer in succession to Mrs. Ling, who is leaving the village. Afterwards, at a meeting of the inhabitants, with the Rev. A. Scott in the chair, several presentations were made to Miss Ling to mark the goodwill of the residents and their gratitude for the good work Miss Ling has done in the village. Miss Thompson, of the Plains, handed to Miss Ling a gold watch bracelet and silver tea service in the name of many parishioners and friends, including the school children. The rector, the Rev. A. G. Loftie, in the name of the members of the Girls' Friendly Society, presented their gift, which consisted of a silver card case inscribed with Miss Ling's monogram. He said a few words to express the gratitude, affection, and esteem which had prompted the gift. Miss Ling, with much feeling, said a few graceful words of thanks. The choir had previously presented Miss Ling with a silver rose bowl.

The Incorporated Belfast Nurses' Home has just been registered for the purpose of establishing, endowing, maintaining, and conducting a nursing institute in Belfast, and taking over the Society hitherto carried on at Frederick Street, Belfast, known as the Belfast Nurses' Home and Training-school. As the institute is not carried on to make a profit for its founders, the Board of Trade have dispensed with the use of the word "Limited" in the title.

Mr. J. M. Clinton, of Hankow, China, characterises China as the greatest mission field in the world, great both in opportunities and difficulties. He says:—

"We look around us and see doors of opportunities open everywhere. In the first place, the Chinese are anxious to learn of Western ideas, of Western civilisation, and Western ways of doing things. There is here, therefore, a great field for the teacher.

"In the second place, one is led to believe that the Chinese are subject to all the ills to which the human race is heir. The death rate at all ages in China is something alarming. The Chinese need to be taught better methods of sanitation, of hygiene, and physiology. Here also is a great field for the physician and the trained nurse."

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