

press, containing every article that may be used for the comfort and well being of the sick. In country regions this supply may be sent express in a suitable chest, as is done in Germany, by the Association for Supplying Comforts to the Sick. The German chests contain bedding, linen, blankets, gowns, utensils of all kinds, rubber appliances, air and water pillows, head rests, pulleys, bed tables, surgical dressings, disinfectants, night lamps, feeding cups, and tubes, &c., and a formalin lamp for disinfection. The articles are confided to the care of the attending physician if no nurse is there, and the patient, if possible, pays something for the use of the outfit. These chests reach the wildest and most remote country regions throughout Germany, and are of untold benefit, as many, even well-to-do, country people are quite unprovided with appliances for comfort in illness."

In America Miss Dock says, that with a few notable exceptions, the vast rural population is still untouched and unthought of in sanitary and nursing advance. "It is a subject for serious reflection on the part of State authorities that many a smiling Eden-like valley is blighted by perennial diphtheria, scarlet fever, and meningitis, to say nothing of typhoid. In the picturesque cabin of the mountaineer, and the comfortable looking farmhouse contagious diseases are as rampant as in the city, and they are far less effectively combated. In the city contagions are reported and houses can be disinfected. But where are country homes reported when contagion strikes them, and who disinfects them? Country folk are, as a rule, far less intelligent and up-to-date in their understanding of how contagion is carried than the tenement dwellers, who have many more avenues of instruction open to them."

Miss Dock criticises the attitude of district nursing associations to contagious disease. She of course does not adopt the irrational position that a visiting nurse should take contagious cases with others, but says: "When considered from the small point of view it would seem more important that a visiting nurse association should send a nursing missionary to the child with scarlet fever, who was liable to lose its hearing as a result of carelessness, than to provide one for the average uncritical medical and surgical case. And considered from a large view point this question of rural sanitation means the unwitting pollution of water courses, the infection of hundreds of city dwellers through the milk supply and even by green vegetables and salads, and needless suffering to the rural population. Here is call for a serious campaign of education to be entered upon in rural districts by State boards of health, or by voluntary associations, in respect to typhoid fever, scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria, and the whole race of influenzas." The point she specially urges is that the problem of contagious disease is the gravest part of the whole sanitary question in rural districts, and that it has not yet been attacked in a determined and definite way.

The Nurses' Settlement movement is, we are told, "interesting and significant because it gives the opportunity of spontaneous expression in work to an army of workers hitherto kept passive in bands of strictest control.

Referring to the medical supervision of school

children, whatever else may be added to the three R's of the public schools, this, says Miss Dock, is fundamental. Dr. Cronin's article (on "School Children and their Medical Supervision") shows the need for a thorough-going physical examination as a prime factor in any effective scheme; and Miss Lina L. Rogers, writing of "Nurses in the Public Schools in New York City," shows the co-ordinate work of the school nurse in all its fascination and far-reaching influence.

Other contributors of papers are Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, who writes of "The Rise of District Nursing in England"; Miss Ysabella Waters, R.N., of the Henry Street Settlement, New York, who describes the "Rise, Progress, and Extent of Visiting Nursing in the United States"; Miss Margaret H. Allen, Chief Lady Superintendent Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, whose paper deals with the foundation and work of that Order; Miss Harriet Fulmer who writes on "Visiting Nursing in a Great City" (Chicago); Miss Caroline Bartlett Crane, who writes of "The Visiting Nurse in a Small City"; Mr. Christopher C. Thurber, who discusses "District Nursing in a Rural Community"; Miss Lillian D. Wald, R.N., of the Henry Street Settlement, New York, who writes on the "Development of Nurses' Settlements"; Miss Elizabeth Ashe, who contributes an article on "Nurses' Settlements in San Francisco"; Miss Margaret H. Pearson, who writes of "The Orange Visiting Nurses' Settlement"; Miss M. A. Nutting, whose paper on "The Visiting Nurse for Tuberculosis," will be read with deep interest; Miss Anna E. Rutherford, who writes of "Hourly Nursing, as done by the Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumnae Association"; "The Frerar Nursing Fund," by Miss Idora Rose, Superintendent of the Illinois Training School for Nurses; Miss Honnor Morten, writes of "School Nurses in England." When the London County Council took over the work of the London School Nurses' Society, and the nurses became the officers of the Council they were withdrawn from the actual dressings, &c., and had to confine themselves entirely to reporting, excluding, and giving cards of instruction. Our contemporary's criticism is that the Council has "taken from their nurses the precise work which they went into the schools to do, which they are trained for, and which gives results. It seems almost as if the Council were joking or performing an extravaganza. The practical work of the nurse in the school and her practical oversight and actual handling of the children in their homes is the gist and kernel of public school nursing. This has been brilliantly proved by the work in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. A danger that threatens good public school nursing is that there is always a tendency among men to so order the routine of a woman's work as to take all close personal detail out of it and make it an example of red tape and officialism."

In the limits of this review it is not possible to do more than briefly draw attention to the storehouse of information on the subject of "Visiting Nursing" to be found in the journal above referred to. It should be read, studied, and possessed by everyone interested in the subject.

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