

sage than that her mother was ill. I went at once, and on my arrival at the house found the patient practically dying. I immediately sent for the doctor and clergymen (though I feared that neither would reach her in time), and in the meantime I did my best for the poor thing, who never rallied, but died in about twenty minutes after my arrival. I asked the woman who was with her why she had not sent for assistance sooner, and the excuse given me was that the patient never needed a doctor or a nurse on such occasions, and that she did not think she would need them this time, the woman taking great credit to herself for having sent for me even then. The house was a most wretched one, with practically nothing in it. The patient was lying on a bit of grass on the floor, with no covering except an old skirt and jacket she had on. There was no underclothing, bed or bedclothing. I could not get even a bit of candle to enable me to see her when I went in. It was the most pitiable state of affairs that anyone could imagine, and I shall not forget my experience of that day for some time. A collection is being made in the parish to get some clothes, &c., for the children. The father is an epileptic."

"A child with double pneumonia, to which I was called on Christmas Day. She lived three miles out with no road going within half a mile of the house. To get there one had to walk through a swamp for part of the way, and then climb up the mountain side to the house, which was most difficult in this wet and stormy weather, and it was just as difficult to teach the mother of the child how to make a poultice, put it on and keep the child clean. I visited the child twice every day for ten days. She is now convalescent."

No wonder that the services of the nurses come as a blessing in these poverty-stricken districts.

As to the future, the report states: "The outlook is full of hope. The future that lies before us in the opening year seems to promise well for our work. But still, unforgotten, the recollection comes to us of the many poor districts which remain destitute of even the sheer necessities for relief and care in time of sickness." It is sad, however, to learn that in the case of some most urgent appeals "owing to lack of funds, there are still many to whom unfavourable answers must be sent." A work so humanitarian, and so potent for good as regards the physical well-being of the nation, deserves wide-spread support. As the report points out, the Fund has established, by its record of three years' successful work, a claim to be considered as an organisation which rests upon a business-like and practical basis, and which deserves the co-operation of those who are seeking to lessen the ills of poverty.

We are indebted for permission to publish the accompanying illustration to Miss Keyes, Secretary of the Fund.

Progress of State Registration.

The silence maintained by the lay nursing press on the subject of the important Resolution passed by the British Medical Association in favour of the State Registration of Nurses is noteworthy. Had it not been for this journal the nursing profession would have been kept entirely in the dark on this matter.

A recent discussion at the meeting of the Transvaal Medical Council revealed the fact that the Council was in favour of the compulsory registration of all nurses, and the hope was expressed that the new Legislative Council will give the Medical Council power to register all nurses and midwives. Only those who have passed the necessary examinations would be allowed to be registered, and in this way the unqualified persons would be excluded from nursing. At present any unqualified person can pose as a nurse, and the Council has no control over them. It was agreed to publish a notice requesting all medical men to employ, where possible, registered nurses in preference to those not registered by this Council.

The Massachusetts State Nurses are to be congratulated on the spirit in which they are dealing with the question of State Registration. In a report presented to the Nurses' Associated Alumnae, Miss M. E. P. Davis said:—

"The unwillingness of legislators to regard with favour any request for privilege that would put into the hands of women legislative authority is, perhaps, more marked in Massachusetts than any other state of the Union.

"The Massachusetts State nurses have marched up the hill to the State House for three consecutive years, with their bill for State Registration, and then marched down again,—as one of our number has tritely put it, 'cast down' but not 'dismayed'; saddened, but but much enlightened; therefore wiser. Being firmly convinced of the justice of their demands and the righteousness of their cause, they are not to be discouraged or disorganised by repeated adverse reports of a committee whose name should stand for something appreciative and, if such a thing exists in politics, a friendly attitude towards the profession—the Committee on Public Health.

"With a firmer determination and a clearer insight into the causes of opposition the Massachusetts State Nurses' Association will march up the hill every year in good order, and down again, if need be, in the same style, till they get State Registration for Nurses in Massachusetts on their own terms." Well done, Massachusetts!

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