

to exercise safely. He is encouraged to believe that his recovery rests upon his efforts, and that the safety of his family is in his hands."

These instructions are followed with a pathetic eagerness, and are shared in by all the members of the family.

The Visiting Nurse is welcomed into the homes of the poor in a way in which no other visitor, be he never so friendly, is welcomed. She enters the home in time of sickness and trouble, often at the moment when the members of the family feel most their own ignorance and helplessness. Her visit is looked upon in the same light as the visit of the doctor. She is not an intruder, but a welcomed specialist to give aid in sickness and distress.

She is able to minister at once to physical needs. She brings relief, comfort, encouragement, and not by words only, but by deeds, simple deeds which the most ignorant can appreciate and understand.

"She practises first before she preaches, and she practises what she preaches; the seeing and the doing go together, the mother or sister or neighbour unconsciously profiting by her instruction, through her example, and many object lessons are given in the practical details of nursing."

And not of nursing only, but of cleanliness, of hygiene, of order, and of disinfection.

Infinite pains are also taken to instil into their minds the fact that prevention of disease is as possible as cure, and that a careful observance of the common laws of hygiene, and proper care in regard to infection, will in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred keep the most dreaded enemy, illness, from the door.

In the case of the tuberculosis nurse all this is especially true, for, as I have already said, education and prevention form the greater part of her work.

The tuberculosis nurse gets her patients from many sources. The majority are naturally from the dispensaries. Others are reported to her by physicians, charity workers, district nurses, old patients, and private individuals. In going from household to household, too, she frequently discovers new cases herself, for becoming an expert in recognising the symptoms of the disease, she is often able to detect it in its incipiency, long before the patient himself suspects that he is a victim. In this lies one of her greatest powers, for by discovering the case in its first stages, there is not only great hope that it may be permanently cured, but also it is possible to at once institute the precaution necessary to prevent a spread of the infection, and thus many new cases are avoided.

(To be concluded.)

Progress of State Registration.

The nurse, trained and otherwise, continues to be the object of much attention in the daily press. The correspondence in the *Daily Mail* on "Bogus Nurses" has turned mainly on Nursing Homes, and the complaints made, of carelessness and inefficiency on the part of nurses really substantiate the case of the advocates of State Registration for the enforcement of a standard of efficiency. Dr. G. H. R. Dabbs advocates the establishment of paying departments in connection with all general hospitals for people of moderate means, and says what is needed at the present time is the hospital for middle class patients.

A vivacious article on the subject of State Registration has appeared in the *Daily Mirror*, "By a Hospital Matron," and the subject has also received attention in the *Glasgow Record and Mail*, so that it is well to the fore just now.

The *Inter-State Medical Journal*, U.S.A., says: "Culture, refinement, education, and definite professional training are the qualities that should be demanded of a professional nurse if she is to have a fixed place in the community. The first step towards this end is the registration by the State of those who are capable and the exclusion of those who are unfit. So energetic a demand as that contained in the pamphlet issued against the passage of the Act for Registration of Nurses in Pennsylvania seems far beneath the dignity of any fair-minded person, and much further than this, beneath the dignity of a physician, whose aim should be toward the betterment of medical conditions in the community.

"The trained professional nurse is an absolute necessity to the modern physician, and incidentally to the modern patient. The better her training and the better her general education, the surer will be the chance of her being a good woman and a good nurse. As a class, trained nurses should set up requirements and be very careful whom they admit into their sisterhood, and the State should see to it that they are protected.

"The regulation and control of nurses by State law is a great step in the advancement of medicine. For a time the passage of such a law might be followed by unpleasant conditions, due to individual misconception, but the end-result would certainly mean a purification of the nursing ranks similar to that produced on medicine in general by the legal demand for the registration of medical practitioners."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)