

pupil nurses by medical men, and instructions given in nursing by the Matron. The practical experience is acquired by the pupil nurses going out to nurse patients in their own homes, sometimes with a doctor, but very often without a doctor. Often, too, the veriest tyros in nursing are sent to take charge of the most serious cases, and are left pretty much to their own resources in doing so. Of course, the Matron is supposed to supervise the work; but, considering the wide area over which the work is scattered, the supervision must be very perfunctory indeed. In some cases, if the people can afford to pay for it, the nurse resides in the patient's house, but most of the nursing is done by visits to the patient once or twice daily. Another peculiarity of the system is that in order that the nurses may see as many cases as possible in their short period of training, there is frequent, sometimes daily, changing of the nurse at a case. The midwifery part of the work was at first supposed to be received in the Glasgow Maternity Hospital. However, last year only two nurses from the Govan Home were resident there, and that merely for the purpose of bringing down their learning to convey it to the other nurses in the home by acting as clinical teachers. But even this has now been stopped, and none of the nurses are sent to the Maternity Hospital. All now receive their midwifery training by lectures in the Home from a medical man, and by practising on the inhabitants of the surrounding districts under the clinical supervision of a midwife employed by the Home.

Miss Stevenson, in her letter, inquires from what Board of Examiners they receive certificates qualifying them to practice as midwives. In Scotland it is not necessary to have a certificate from any particular Board of Examiners to practise midwifery, so that the certificate of the Home is all that is required to enable them to be called certificated midwives. Some of the nurses, however, are intended for country districts in England, and these, before they can practise midwifery, must take the C.M.B. certificate, which we are informed they do. What surprises the practitioners of Govan, however, is that the kind of practical training received by the midwifery pupils of the Govan Home should qualify for the examination of that Board. The period of training at first was only six months. Now an extra month has been added, while a few are retained for a few months longer to act as tutors to the beginners. A portion of this time (two or three months) is now spent by some of the nurses in the Elder Cottage Hospital, which contains 15 beds, but, of course, this cannot count for much in the way of hospital experience. Other points are the charging of fees for the services of the midwife and her pupils, and their competition with medical men by undertaking work which should fall to them, but this is an aspect of the question, which concerns medical men, and, as Miss Stevenson says, may be left for them to judge. From the nurses' point of view, the objectionable features of the Home are:

1. The short period of training.
2. The defective and haphazard nature of the practical training; and
3. Their competition with and supplanting of fully trained nurses.

When the real nature of the Institution became obvious, the local medical men, through their Union, the Govan Medical Association, made strong representations to the Executive Committee of the Home on the matter, and suggested among other reforms, the lengthening of the period of training to two years, and the necessity for a more regular and thorough practical training of the nurses. These recommendations were, however, rejected by the Executive Committee on the plea that the finances of the Home could not afford it, and that it was not their intention to turn out highly trained nurses, but only cottage nurses, and that by this they meant nurses with a certain amount of training, who would perform domestic duties in the homes of their patients, such as cooking, washing, care of children, etc., which a highly trained nurse would not undertake. It was, further, explained by the Committee that these cottage nurses were intended for the poorer class of the community, and not for people who could afford to pay for highly trained nurses, and that they were being trained for the supply of sick nursing in widely scattered country districts, far removed from medical aid. As a matter of fact, however, these cottage nurses' services, even during their period of training, are not restricted to the poor, but are freely given for fees to people who could quite well afford to pay for trained nursing. Neither are their services, after going to their districts, confined to the poor, but are open to all classes. In these country districts nursing associations are formed, having tariffs of subscriptions for the nurses' services, graduated to meet the resources of all classes from the labourer to the professional and non-professional gentleman, the poor professional gentleman getting off with half the fee payable by his non-professional brother. But even supposing their services were restricted to the poor, why should an inferior standard of nursing be set up for the poor? The General Medical Council insists that the medical man who attends the poor shall be as fully qualified as the one who attends the rich. In the same way, if the poor are to have the benefits of sick nursing, it ought to be in the form of fully trained nurses. Again, if these cottage nurses are intended for the supply of widely scattered rural districts far removed from medical aid, why are they only partially trained? If the nurses are to be left so much to their own resources in their work, is that not a reason why, on the contrary, they should be as highly trained as possible? When these partially trained nurses are sent to their country districts, they are sent as "certificated" nurses, and are, no doubt, looked upon by the people as perfectly trained and worthy of being trusted in every way that a trained nurse should be. But if these people knew that the nurse sent them was only partially trained; and trained on the cheap for their spe-

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