

any little superior knowledge she may have, to impart it to her fellow, but that can hardly be reckoned as practical training. The lectures delivered by medical men, and the theoretical instructions in nursing by the Matron inside the Home may be very good, but in nursing it is the practical training that counts, so that I think I am quite justified in characterising the training as haphazard and a smattering, and as picked up in a scrappy and happy-go-lucky manner. At any rate, the Duchess's description of the training as "careful" can hardly be accepted. With reference to the midwifery training, the Duchess informs us that every midwife sent out by the Home holds either the certificate of the Glasgow Maternity Hospital or that of the C.M.B. That may be true, but it is also meant to conceal the whole truth. As I mentioned in my former letter the connection with the Glasgow Maternity Hospital has now been discarded, and only the C.M.B. certificate is aimed at, that being necessary for midwifery practice in England. All the nurses sent out from the Home, however, do not qualify thus as midwives. Nevertheless, they all spend part of their short period of six months in receiving midwifery training, and must, therefore, be intended to practice midwifery in their districts, so that those who do not go in for the C.M.B. certificate have only the certificate of the Home to cover their midwifery work as well as nursing.

Secondly, the Duchess calls in question the truth of my statement that these cottage nurses endeavour to compete with highly trained nurses. To be accurate, my statement was not that they endeavoured, but that they were actually competing with, and cutting out, trained nurses. I have already shown wherein that competition comes in. However, the Duchess herself informs us that eighty of these partially trained cottage nurses have already been turned out to districts in England and Scotland, Highlands and Hebrides. If that is so, does it not confirm my statement? It means that eighty situations which ought to be held by highly trained nurses have been filled up by these cottage helps in the guise of nurses. What else is that but competition with, and cutting out of highly trained nurses? But the competition begins with their training, before they are sent to their districts. During their period of training the pupil nurses to a great extent are employed for fees in the neighbouring high class residential districts of Ibrox and Bellahouston, where the inhabitants should be able to pay for skilled nursing. More especially in this case since the medical men in the working class district of Govan have ceased to countenance them or to encourage their work among their patients.

Thirdly, the Duchess says that there is no truth in the assertion that the nurses are taught to compete with medical men either in their districts or during their training. As I have already said, this is an aspect of the question which more particularly concerns medical men, and which I therefore did not intend to bring before your

readers, but as my veracity on this point has been called in question, I might be permitted to state a few facts, and to make a few comments thereon. For midwiferies by the midwife of the Home and her pupils, a minimum fee of 8s. 6d. is charged. A few cases where the fee cannot be recovered are attended free. Last year we are told the midwife and her pupils attended 319 cases. No discrimination as to class is made in taking on patients, apparently the more able to pay the more desirable the patient. Since remonstrance by the medical men, a rule has been framed restricting the midwife's services to cases where the householder's average weekly wage does not exceed 30s. No account is taken of other possible sources of income to the family besides the householder's earnings. But this rule, unsatisfactory though it is, has never been observed; cases are still taken on without enquiry as to circumstances. Before the establishment of the Home, the majority of these patients used to engage and were able to pay a doctor. The medical man also found that where a pupil nurse was employed to nurse one of his midwifery patients, he was very often cut out by the midwife at the subsequent confinement. The nurse so employed has even been known to recommend the patient to have the midwife on the next occasion. If that is not competition with medical men what is it? So also in general work the Home takes on surgical and other cases, and sends the pupil nurses to attend them without a doctor being in attendance. These could hardly be called emergency cases which is the excuse urged by the authorities of the Home for doing so, for some of the cases of such attendance have extended to weeks and were only discovered by the medical men through the nurses' treatment failing, and the patients being forced to seek medical aid. In the country districts also, the nurses are made to perform work which properly belongs to the doctor, and are encouraged not only to act independently of the doctor, but to take upon themselves the responsibility of advising the people as to the necessity for calling in one or not, e.g., see Rule 10 of the "Vale of Girvan Benefit Nursing Association," which employs these cottage nurses. The rule reads as follows:—"When no doctor is in attendance the nurse must use her discretion in advising the patient to call one in." Common politeness forbids me to call an assertion made by anyone in good faith as untrue, or as having no truth in it, at least without being certain of my ground. In this instance, however, the facts compel me to state that the Duchess is not speaking in accordance with the truth when she asserts that "when the nurses are sent to country districts it is on the understanding that they are only to nurse cases under a doctor," and that "in Govan they never attend any general cases of illness excepting under a doctor."

The Govan Medical Association, on whose behalf these letters have been sent comprises almost all the medical practitioners in the district of Govan, twenty members in all. The letters have been written at the unanimous instruction of the As-

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