

### Nursing Echoes.



In pleading for support for the Southwark Invalid Kitchen, which does an enormous amount of good in one of the poorest and most crowded parts of South London, it is stated that the institution supplies invalid diet at the nominal price of 1d. per meal to maternity patients, convalescents, and other suitable cases which are not provided for by hospital, infirmary, or other outdoor relief. Every precaution is taken to prevent the misapplication of the charity; 11,749 meals have been given during the past years, and the authorities of Guy's Hospital, the Charity Organisation Society, and all workers in the district are unanimous in their appreciation of the good which has been done by the supplying of nourishing food to those who would otherwise have lost the chance of effectual recovery from the want of proper nourishment.

Founded in 1888, the Invalid Children's Aid Association, which has the Princess of Wales for its patron, is engaged in administering to the care of the poor invalid children of London. By means of volunteer helpers in various districts the young people are visited in their homes when ill; sent to convalescent institutions and sanatoria, and provided with instruments when necessary in the case of cripples. Some of them are even apprenticed to suitable trades, and thus given a start in life. No fewer than 15,000 children have been assisted by the society, which has now 5,000 names of cases still under treatment. It receives about £5,000 a year in subscriptions and donations, but to extend its excellent work requires and should receive very much more.

To do one thing, and to do it well is the surest way to obtain employment in these days when the market, even for skilled workers, is overstocked. Yet women are driven to strange expedients, witness an advertisement which recently appeared in the press from one desiring employment, in connection with any of the following branches: "Tuition (London Matriculation) for examinations, or elementary pupils; Shorthand, Typing; Nursing (trained Battersea and Plaistow; experience district and private); Dispensing, Needlework, Housework, Vegetarian Cookery." For anyone expert in all these branches there should

surely be employment, but the advertiser omits to mention her qualification for private nursing. Experience in maternity work, with a little insight into district nursing, does not qualify for the responsible duties devolving on the private nurse.

The Management Committee of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, Sparkhill, in their annual report state that "from the founding of the hospital up to Dec. 31, 1906, there have been 4,791 operations involving abdominal section. Of these, 249 patients died, giving a death-rate of 5.2 per cent. For the five years, 1902 to 1906 inclusive, there were 1,411 operations involving abdominal section. Of these, 34 patients died, giving a death-rate of 2.4 per cent. The management of the in-patient department has been most satisfactorily conducted by Miss Richmond, assisted by Sister Hawkins, and the efficiency of the nursing staff has been kept up to a high standard."

The Local Government Board have refused to sanction the appointment of an assistant nurse at the Liskeard Workhouse who is without previous experience, stating that they do not feel justified in so doing, having regard to the large number of sick in the Workhouse, and to the fact that in the absence of the head nurse the assistant would be left in sole charge. The Head Nurse, Miss M. P. Hingston, pointed out the responsibility that rested under the present arrangement on herself. She could not go out now and leave all these people with this young girl, and she did not think it would be fair to her to leave the people in her charge. If she was going to make anything of a nurse in the future the sooner she went and obtained a thorough training the better it would be for her own sake.

Liverpool is proud of being the pioneer city to initiate district nursing, and at the annual meeting of the Liverpool Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, held recently, the Lord Mayor, Dr. Caton, presiding, a satisfactory report was presented. Miss Peterkin, the Inspectress from the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, had sent a very appreciative report of the work of the staff, which now consists of five Matrons, and 52 nurses.

The daily visiting had been continued, and this year there were 79 cases, against 65 in 1906. Of the work done by these nurses, both doctors and patients continued to speak in the highest terms. Four nurses had attended at

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