

bedstead, it is easily removed to facilitate nursing operations. It can be adapted to suit any patient, and it may be conveniently used as a book-rest or bed-table. Patients who have used this rest speak highly of the comfort which they have obtained from it. Sister Rowson has generously offered to devote the profits which may result from its sale to the Hospital.

Our paragraph on the necessity for further ingenuity in the coverings of hot water bottles so as to prevent the constant and often deplorable accidents to unconscious patients by burning, has called forth from a nurse a very clever suggestion. As we consider her invention well worth patenting, we propose to give no further details until the matter has received consideration. Several good inventions have already been "abstracted" from nurses and patented by others.

The Committee of the Coventry Nursing Institution issued invitations to qualified nurses to attend a Conference at their "Home" in the Quadrant on May 19th, on the subject of "Nurses' Co-operation." A goodly number were present, and, with the Committee, quite filled the large and delightfully pleasant sitting-room of the nurses. Miss Turner, Matron of the Private Nursing Branch of the Manchester and Salford Sick Poor and Private Nursing Institution, had been also invited to attend and explain the details of such a system and as the nurses in the Home, of which she is the Matron, have the option of working under either system, she should know the pros and cons on both sides. Miss Turner quite acknowledged that a nurse enjoying good health and possessing a home to which she could go for rest and for nursing, could do very well if she were kept well supplied with work on the co-operative system; failing these two advantages, the risks were very great, and in many instances disastrous to the nurse. From her own experience, Miss Turner gave instances of the seriousness of healthy nurses having suddenly broken down or meeting with accidents with the result that in a few weeks or months all their savings were gone and they were practically destitute so she strongly advocated co-operative nurses becoming members of the Royal National Pension Fund, and so being able to join the Sick Pay Fund; the certainty of a weekly sum when incapacitated by illness from work made a tremendous difference in a nurse's life; it also prevented so much of the fret and worry a nurse must feel if she begins to get run down.

In Coventry it appeared there were a number of nurses working for themselves, and unattached to any Society. Work, one gathered, was insufficient for all, and so they were consequently underselling each other (one nurse was known to have accepted 10s. a week rather than remain out of work), and preventing any of them from making a fair living. The Committee of the Institution thought if they would combine and work co-operatively it would benefit all concerned, but as none of the nurses seemed to wish to take any further steps or to join a sub-committee, the matter was apparently dropped. It was a pity that none of the nurses working alone joined in the discussion, as it was their opinions which were wanted, but two, who were attached to the Home as salaried nurses, both spoke against the proposal; one alluded to the hardship of not being nursed by the Committee when ill, if working on the co-operative system, and seemed to expect all the advantages of salaried nurses as well as receiving their own fees with the exception of the percentage, etc., deducted for working expenses. Very few institutions can boast of such a pleasant "homely" Home as that of Coventry can, and it was quite evident that the comfort of the nurses was well studied; a sunny garden and plenty of room for bicycles, were not the least among the luxuries one noticed, and perhaps rather envied!

A meeting of the Committee of Lady Dudley's Nursing Scheme was held on Thursday in last week at the offices, 30, Molesworth Street. Amongst those present were the Countess of Aberdeen, the Countess of Mayo, Lord Frederick Fitzgerald, Lady Arnott, Miss Lamont, Miss M'Donnell, Mr. James Talbot Power, and the Secretary. The annual report was presented and ordered to be distributed. The Secretary reported that members of Lord Dudley's Commission had visited several of the nurses, and had informed themselves as to the conditions under which the work was carried out.

The establishment of nurses in Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo, and in Derrybeg, Co. Donegal, was sanctioned, and arrangements in connection therewith were authorised. Applications for nurses in other districts were received, but it was impossible for the Committee to consider these applications as there were not sufficient funds to more than cover the present liabilities on account of the nurses already established. Further donations and subscriptions are urgently needed in order that any extension of the work may take place. This nursing

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