

the school, and a graduate nurse was engaged for this branch of the work. From the very beginning "social work" was done by the instructor among the patients in hospital wards and in the dispensary, and it increased to such an extent that a second graduate nurse was engaged in May, 1907, for this particular branch and for the extra clerical work in the office.

The term of service is two months, and the students are sent out during their senior year in the school. As the course is elective, the students who undertake it are those interested in this special branch of nursing, and an advantage of this has been that the majority have shown strong qualifications and special adaptability for the work.

Each nurse is provided with a completely equipped bag, and every night before going off duty this is put in order, ready for any emergency, and the visiting list made out for the following day. Each nurse has a special district assigned her, and also part of the office work. Each patient who can afford it pays a fee of ten to twenty-five cents per visit, and some gladly pay more. These small amounts seldom pay for the supplies used. They are converted into what is called the Patients' Fund, and are disbursed again for flowers, fruit, or suitable food for the very sick or destitute. Immediate relief is given in all destitute cases—food, fuel, clothing—and milk and eggs to incipient tuberculosis cases.

Miss Bewley reports that the educational advantages to the nurse are invaluable. In the hospital there is very little scope for originality. The work in the homes of destitute people teaches her adaptability and resourcefulness, and develops the humanitarian instincts, and has undoubtedly a stimulating effect on the mind.

To the hospital proper it has made it pos-

sible to treat many more cases in the wards, for now patients can be discharged earlier than formerly, the subsequent dressings and medical care being carried out in the patients' homes. Probably, however, the greatest scope of the work has been found among the dispensary class of patients. Many of these patients, Miss Bewley reports, have been brought back to proper condition solely by the present ability of physicians and surgeons to have home conditions improved, so that a cure is made possible.

In regard to the benefit to the patient, the work of the visiting nurse is, in the broadest sense a work of prevention and education, and the benefit of the patient and the family, is sometimes great.



A PROFESSIONAL MOURNER IN KOREA.

During the four years that the course has been established at the Presbyterian Hospital, 70 nurses have had the two months' course, and 18 graduates of the hospital are now engaged in visiting nursing work; 14 in New York City and 4 in different parts of the country.

Korea is a country of which, until recent years, little was known by the outside world. Yet there are now various agencies at work by means of which trained nursing is available for the native population, and training schools for nurses are already established. There is St. Luke's Hospital, Chemulpo, where Mrs. Weir (*née* Skey), trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, is at work, and the trained Sisters of the Community of St. Peter, Kilburn, have for many years been doing hospital work there. The accompanying illustration is that of a professional mourner, in Korea, an important personage in that country. He wears white, which is the colour of mourning, and the fan in his hand is for the purpose of driving away the evil spirits. As in Central Africa, so in Korea, the belief in the power of evil spirits, and the need for propitiating them, is great.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)