

setshire. Miss Fry, a certified midwife, with hospital and district experience, is willing to give "Homely Talks to Mothers" on the eastern side of the county, and owing to the kindness of the Child Study Society of Street, Miss Oates, a fully trained nurse, and certified midwife, formerly Sister at the Northern Hospital, Liverpool, will be able to speak to women or girls on health subjects in any part of the county when her engagements permit. All travelling expenses must be paid, and a nominal charge of 2s. 6d. for each lecture will be made. Forms of application may be obtained from the Central Organiser, Nurses' Social Union, Kingston Grange, Taunton.

An interesting example of a private nursing association, managed by nurses, which has proved a financial success, is the Trained Nurses' Association and Co-operative Home, Galen House, Nightingale Road, Guildford, of which Miss E. M. Waind, formerly a Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, is Lady Superintendent. The members vary from 35 to 42, and may join either as ordinary members, receiving a salary of £60 per annum, or as co-operative members, when they receive a salary of £30 per annum, paid monthly, with commission, bonus, and sick leave. During the last financial year the fees amounted to £3,323 6s., of which £2,778 13s. 6d. was paid in cash to the nurses. Beyond this £674 12s. 6d. covered all expenses, including house rent, garden, house and official expenses and salaries, and £70 was passed into a reserve fund. All the members are insured under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

A privilege of which several members have availed themselves is the suspension rule, by which, for special reasons, members may suspend themselves for a time, such suspension to date from the day of leaving a patient or from the last day of a holiday. This privilege is not granted for the purpose of taking work elsewhere, but for rest, extra holiday, or family reasons. When not at cases, the nurses live in the Home; the daily average of those in the Home was over two and less than three.

At the annual meeting of the Aberdeen District Nursing Association, the report demonstrated the large amount of excellent work done by the Superintendent of the society, and nursing staff. The latter had made during the year 35,000 visits to the sick poor, representing 100 visits a day or twelve visits by each nurse daily. This immense amount of good work only costs £1,000 a year.

Miss Louisa Innes Lumsden gave a very excellent address in moving the adoption of the report, in which she gave as the reason there was not a qualified district nurse in every part of the country, prejudice, ignorance, and money. Referring to the value of the nurses' work, Miss Lumsden said:

"Now let us try to form some idea of the actual services rendered by the nurses to the community. It may be difficult for us to imagine these, for from the nature of the case we cannot see them with our own eyes. People sometimes say they would like to accompany the nurse on her rounds. Well, it may be possible to do this elsewhere, but not in Scotland—at least not in Aberdeen. We know what our people are, the best of them at least, those who are most unspoiled by some deplorable modern influences; how shy they are, how proud, how reserved, how intolerant of interference. Now the nurses have gradually won their way into the homes, and into the confidence of the most reserved. It has taken a long time sometimes to do this, but once confidence has been given it is kept. That the nurses don't carry tittle-tattle and gossip is understood. But the appearance of a stranger would at once be a shock, and would undoubtedly, in many cases, be resented. But can we not imagine, without actually seeing it, how, into the lowest alleys of our great town, into the dirtiest and stuffiest rooms, the nurse comes; herself in her spotless but simple and practical uniform, a living embodiment of cleanliness and tidiness; how she wins the trust of the women, how she gradually instructs them in practical hygiene, opens windows, gets them to clean up foul places, and how, with kindly tact, with every consideration for easily offended feeling, she little by little diffuses round her, as it were, a new atmosphere, on the physical side an inspiration towards cleanliness, tidiness, and practical service, and on the moral side an inspiration of kindness, helpfulness, order, and sobriety, and all by example much more than by precept, a teaching that is never intrusive, and yet, as a rule, well nigh irresistible. For my part—and I care about education, and have given a good deal of labour to education in my life—I am free to confess that if I were compelled to choose between the schooling of which we hear so much nowadays (and which is too often a mere veneer of book learning which leaves character untouched and uninfluenced) and really skilful nursing. I would let the schooling go, and stick to the nursing, as a superior educational influence in the homes of the people. Well now, beset as we are, nowadays with all manner of theories and fads, differ as we may about the objects on which we spend our efforts, teased and tormented, perhaps for our good, by countless agencies on all sides, associations and societies, and leagues and anti-leagues, and bands and guilds, for this, that, and the next object, I feel very sure that we shall all unite without one dissentient voice in recognising the inestimable value of the work of our district nurses."

A very interesting lecture was well attended by the members of the Irish Nurses' Association.

*previous page*

*next page*