

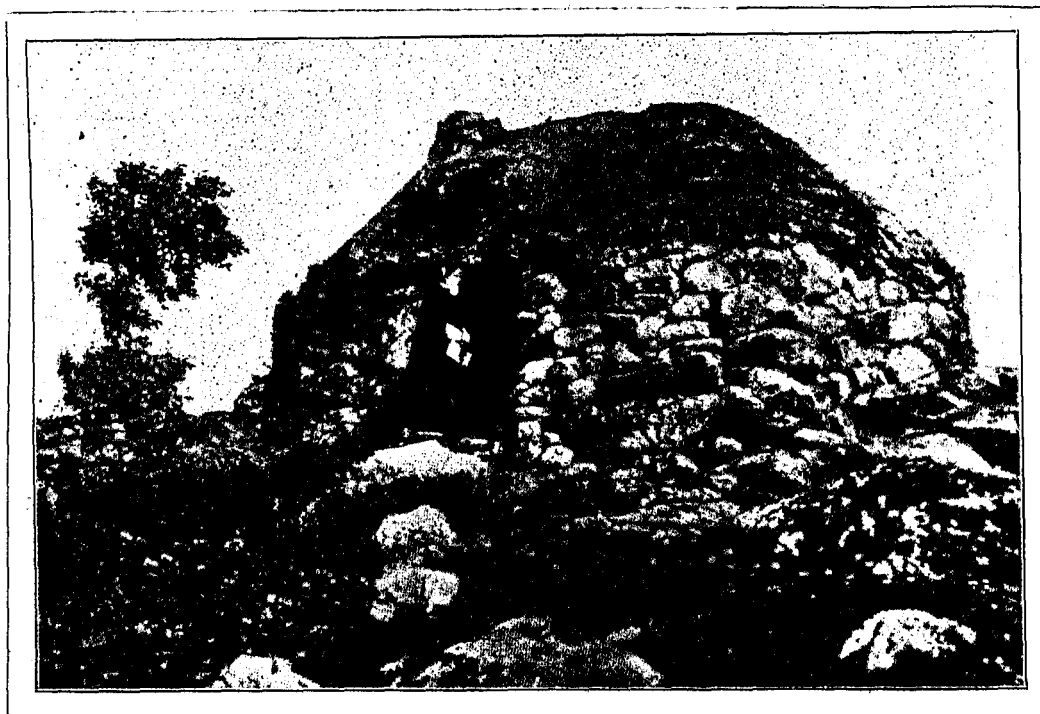
idea of what the case might be until arriving at the patient's house, a distance of eight miles. My patient, a woman, having been confined of a baby boy some hours previously, was lying on a litter of straw, thrown on some boards to act as a bedstead, without covering, only the remains of a dirty quilt and a piece of an old shawl tied round the patient to act as nightdress. Not even a bowl or basin to wash either mother or baby. The baby I washed in a three-legged metal pot, its only garment being a strip of calico about three inches wide, and after a long search I found a flour bag which I wrapped the little mite in and left in peace until next morning, when I went fully prepared for the emergency.

I was called to a case—a boy, aged 11 years.

Could any Committees ask nurses to live in the cottages under such conditions? Is it desirable that they should do so?

The fact is, that the employment of fully-trained nurses is a question of money and some of those who are quite willing to patronise nursing associations are not so willing to raise the funds to pay a well-trained nurse.

The cost of maintaining nurses under Lady Dudley's scheme in the remote agricultural districts is from £100 to £150 per annum. The Committee state the above scale of expenses may at first sight appear high, but, after most careful consideration, the Committee find that it is not possible to obtain properly-qualified nurses, and allow them such facilities as will enable them to give the



TYPICAL PATIENT'S DWELLING.

When I arrived I found the patient in a very weak condition, lying in a bed near the kitchen fire. The bed contained only straw, and in the same bed were kept some fowl. The kitchen was in a most unsanitary condition. The cattle were also kept in the kitchen. I felt I could not possibly nurse the child under these conditions. There was only one room in the house, and I helped to clean it out, which took some time. I then got the room well aired and removed the patient into it. There was only one little window in the room, and it is to be kept open.

We ask any unprejudiced person: (1) whether the assertion that fully-qualified nurses will not work in the rural districts; and (2) that it is necessary that they should reside in the patient's house, can be substantiated in the face of these reports?

widest possible effect to their administration, at a lower cost. In these remote districts, where it is only possible to obtain medical assistance after a delay of many hours, the nurse is constantly placed in positions of the utmost responsibility, and may have to deal unaided with cases requiring the highest skill and knowledge. In seeking to maintain a high standard both as regards character and qualifications among their nurses, the Committee have in view not only the relief of the immediate necessities of the people in these backward districts, but their education in the laws of health and sanitation, and the general improvement of conditions under which they live.

We reproduce from the report an illustration of a cabin, showing the conditions under which the people live whom the nurses work amongst.

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