

schools. The solution of the problem will, therefore, probably be the establishment of residential open-air schools outside the county area. For this, of course, Parliamentary powers will have to be sought. The advantages of the residential school type are many and indisputable. In the first place, the benefit to the children will be a double one. Six months stay at a residential open-air school will be equal to a year at an open-air day school, because the children will have the benefit of pure air, proper sleep, and quiet and clean surroundings during the whole of the 24 hours. In this way a residential open-air school, open the whole year, will treat double the number of children, as compared with the day open-air school. As far as maintenance is concerned, it is clear that as the children are fed in both types of schools, the further expenditure for simple sleeping accommodation need not be very great. As the schools can lie in the country 40 or 50 miles from London, land can be bought in larger quantities at greatly reduced prices and with a wider variety in choice of sites. The buildings will be of fairly durable materials, of an artistic nature, and will be so constructed as not to cost more than £20 per place, and to enable the children to be in the open air during practically five-sixths of the whole year, wholly by day, partially by night.

It follows from the above description that the duties of a nurse in an open-air residential school will be even more extensive than in the open-air day school. They will include, for example, the supervision of the children's sleep, sleeping sheds, and laundry arrangements, and generally they will be more in touch with the catering and household management of the whole establishment. To put it quite briefly, the nurse in the residential open-air school will act temporarily as the mother of the child during its stay at this special type of school.

Great developments may be expected within the next ten years from the institution of school medical inspection. It will soon include school medical treatment in hospitals or school clinics. This, again, must lead to some form of general medical inspection before school age; and, generally speaking, the question of the home conditions of school children, which lies at the root of the whole matter, will receive more detailed and effective consideration. The whole development of school hygiene is pointing in the direction of a Ministry of Public Health, the municipalisation of hospitals, and the State organisation of the health services of the nation.

In a few years, on the basis of one school

doctor and two nurses to 2,000 children, about 4,000 doctors and 8,000 nurses may be necessary. It is, therefore, obvious that the occupation of a school nurse is one of the coming professions for women. It is a reasonable, interesting, and important profession, with a fixed salary, a recognised status, regular work, and a suitable amount of leisure.

The questions of salary, personal rights, and the necessity of proof of adequate training must be settled by the nurses themselves. As regards the last-mentioned matter, it is clear that registration will not prevent unqualified persons from wearing uniforms and styling themselves nurses. This is a free country, and any attempt to interfere with conditions which are the logical outcome of the entire lack of official sanction and registration at the beginning of the nursing movement will encounter a great deal of opposition. But when the public and educational authorities appreciate the value of registration, they will naturally, in the majority of cases, prefer a nurse who has submitted herself to a regular and recognised course of training, and thus obtained the hall-mark of her profession.

Women entering the profession of school nurses will be privileged to take part in one of the most far-reaching and important developments of modern times. It is beyond reasonable doubt that the coming of school hygiene will gradually effect a complete change in our views on education. We are gradually returning to the Greek ideal of the harmonious development of both body and mind. The teacher of the future will be skilled not only in educational work, but also in medical knowledge. A step beyond that may give us the beautiful Greek conception of a school—a place of training, not for mere getting-on in life, but for the intellectual employment of leisure.

The development of school nursing will assist medical science in the accomplishment of its three great stages of progress. It will enable medical science to abandon the first or primitive stage, that of the mere detection and cure of disease. It will aid medical science in the second stage, that of the prevention of disease. And when this has been attained, it will work hand in hand with medical science for the final and greatest stage, the raising of the standard of vitality of the whole race.

WELCOME HELP.

Mrs. Myers, of Dunningwell, Cumberland, an ardent amateur gardener, utilised her show of magnificent chrysanthemums last Sunday for the benefit of State Registration of Nurses. A collection was taken at her garden gate, which has resulted in a cheque for £2, for which many thanks.

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