

Through the city dispensaries they had been able to give aid in correcting defects of eyesight; in cases of deformity of limbs often all that was necessary was some slight medical attention which the parents did not understand could be procured, or supposed that they could not afford to obtain. In many cases where employees were in dire distress, from want of knowledge their troubles had been greatly relieved. Another valuable result had been that if a valuable employee did not report for work, the department foreman understood that he could immediately communicate the name and address to the nurse, and that she would then visit the employee's home and make a report by telephone as to the conditions. In this way much absence from the factory has been eliminated. As evidence of the use made of the nurse's services her summary for one month was quoted. The total number of dispensary cases was 70, 58 of these being new; treatments given were 205. Of home patients, the total number was 34, 15 being new patients, 14 new investigation visits were paid, and 122 visits in all.

The General Superintendent, Mr. E. E. Adams, told a meeting of the Visiting Nurse Association: "I feel in the Factory Nurse we have the greatest possibilities for the development of welfare work, and I wish I might create in each one of you so much enthusiasm for it that, as the work grows, and other factories call for nurses, there might be no lack of applicants for the positions. The possibilities of such a position are limited only by the ability of the person holding it. To one interested in the general social uplift the position, it seems to me, must be ideal."

#### NURSING IN PRISONS.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK said she had not prepared a paper on "Nursing in Prisons" because it was so much in its infancy that there was little to report; but she would like to plead for more interest in the question. She thought that nurses had two great heroines. Of course, Florence Nightingale came first, but Mrs. Elizabeth Fry made a very good second. Whilst Florence Nightingale had a large number of ardent recruits, very few women attempted to emulate the work of Elizabeth Fry. We were all aware that there had been tremendous reforms in our prison system in the past 50 years, but anyone like a trained nurse, who understood not only the penal system, but also the remedial system, which ought to be more generally adopted, must realise that there is an immense amount of unnecessary and unjustifiable suffering amongst the prisoners resulting from the ignorance of the persons who were in charge of them. One of the most beneficent results of the Suffragette movement had been that intelligent reports had been received concerning the conditions of prison life. She had paid a visit to Holloway Prison, and to the naked eye everything appeared admirable. The particular point in which she was interested was not exactly the nursing of the sick but the scientific knowledge which was necessary to improve the condition of the prisoners. Mrs. Fenwick said she did not wish to reflect in any way upon the prison infirmary.

Prison infirmaries, where they were attached, were fairly well managed departments of the prison, and nurses with a certain amount of training were employed. But it was in connection with the care of the prisoner outside the infirmary that she would like to speak, of the necessity for training for the warders and wardresses in charge of the prisoners, who had at present no systematic training for their special work, with the consequence that although many were very kind hearted they were exceedingly ignorant in dealing with the physical condition of their charges.

Then again prisoners underwent personal inspection, which to any woman with the slightest refinement was a terrible indignity, because they were stripped in the presence of their fellow prisoners. It was a horrible shock to any person not thoroughly degraded, and one to which our prisoners should not be subjected excepting in the presence of a trained nurse or medical woman. Then came the conditions in the cells of the prisoners. Mrs. Fenwick said she had had some correspondence with high official quarters in connection with the condition and treatment of the prisoners, and she had been told that her conclusions were erroneous. Her reply to that was that she thought as a trained nurse she could estimate the physical and mental condition of those prisoners—the women especially—better, perhaps, than a scion of the aristocracy who might be a clerk in a Government office. Mrs. Fenwick then described the experiences in prison of a trained nurse, who refused to pay rates, whose physical suffering, owing to having undergone a severe abdominal operation, was greatly aggravated.

Speaking on the necessity for the training of warders and wardresses, Mrs. Fenwick said that much consideration must be given to this subject. The training of a nurse, somewhat modified, with instruction in hygiene and sanitation, would probably meet the case. It was an extraordinary thing that more than half a century after Mrs. Fry's great work a training school for warders and wardresses had still to be established in connection with a prison. Such schools were needed just as much as for probationers in hospitals.

Mrs. Fenwick claimed also that these officials should know something of psychology because the mental condition of the large majority of prisoners is not normal, or they would not be criminals. She hoped that some motion might be passed which would bring to the Home Office the necessity for the training of those in charge of prisoners. She urged the appointment of trained nurses as Matrons of prisons, the adoption of an adequate curriculum of education for warders and wardresses, which could be carried out under the supervision of Matrons. Then probationers could be trained in the prisons in nursing, sanitation, hygiene, their training including instruction in mental disease and the care of mental patients and criminals. It would be a very special and very splendid work, and one that opened out a new field of tremendous importance for women. Still, she hoped that might only be for a few years because when all our great social reforms had taken place our prisons should

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