

Nursing in Canada.

Every effort is being made by philanthropic societies to induce trained nurses to emigrate to Canada, on the ground that their services are much needed in the West of the Dominion. It is true that there are many districts where the services of a trained nurse are urgently needed, but there is no certainty of adequate remuneration, and we cannot too strongly impress upon nurses the importance of securing appointments at salaries, upon which they can live, before emigrating.

A nurse who neglects this advice will probably find that the only means open to her of making a living, while waiting to establish a professional connection, is by doing housework, and housework in Western Canada means hard work such as few English servants would be willing to undertake.

Miss L. K. Beynon, dealing with the question of the demand for nurses in Canada, in *The Lady*, takes the same view, and says:—

"Those who wish to come to Canada at once must be prepared to do housework until they can get established in some small town or thickly-settled country district. . . . The nurses must arrange for themselves and not blame the country if they do not find work immediately on arrival at Winnipeg." . . . "I might, however, add that the country is somewhat to blame, for as yet the nurses in Western Canada have no system of registration to keep the standard up, and shut out those who profess to have had complete training when they are the veriest amateurs, and should not be classed among professionals at all. However, the fight for registration and a higher standard is now going on, and the time is probably not far distant when the nurses of Western Canada will have adequate protection and a reasonable standard."

Miss F. Wilson, Lady Superintendent of the Winnipeg General Hospital Training School for Nurses, writing to us on this subject, says that she receives during the year a large number of letters from graduates of the Old Country inquiring about coming to Canada to carry on their work. In the course of her letter, Miss Wilson makes the following admirably practical suggestion:—

"I think it would be so much better for those who wish to nurse in Canada to train here, as they would be much better equipped for the different conditions to be met with in this country by doing so, and I would strongly advise those who are planning to nurse in Canada to consider the advisability of training here. There are good openings for graduate nurses throughout the West, but naturally the doctors prefer nurses trained in Canada. I would be pleased to consider any good applications from those who wish to train in the West, and enter the Winnipeg General Hospital

Training School, if they communicate with me. We require well educated, refined women, over 22 and under 34 years of age, with a certificate of health from a physician, and also a certificate from their clergyman as to character. Our pupils receive instruction in medical and surgical nursing, obstetrics, infectious diseases, district nursing, dietetics, and cooking, and the course is three years, including probation term of two months."

We should advise those who wish to qualify for nursing in Canada to communicate with Miss Wilson.

Aspasia in Cap and Apron.

John Bull is a paper which as a rule circulates more widely amongst men than women, but we advise all nurses to read this paper weekly while the discussion on Nursing Homes which began in the issue of May 14th is continued. Those who have for so long been working for State Registration of Trained Nurses will find in these articles ample justification for their contention, while surely the most obstinate anti-registrationist must reconsider his or her position. Nurses know that these articles contain a plain unvarnished statement of facts, and that for the sake alike of patients, nurses, and reputable Nursing Homes, it is imperative that immediate action should be taken to secure the registration of trained nurses, and the inspection and registration of Nursing Homes.

MANY NURSING HOMES LITTLE BETTER THAN BROTHELS.

A nurse in an article in the above Journal of May 14th writes that "For the sake of the great general public the time has come when it is imperative that the question as to the respectability or otherwise of many West End Nursing Homes should be threshed out."

She further states that she is in a position to prove that many of these Homes are "little better than brothels."

Referring to the question of State Registration of Nurses, the writer rightly points out that it is "opposed merely by a tiny but determined group, who see in such a measure a threat to their own hitherto despotic control of nursing affairs."

She proceeds to show that the life of a private nurse is always unnatural, and "if work is always too hard, pay nearly always too low, and rational amusement reduced almost to the level of the non-existent, it ought to be recognised as ridiculous to expect a high moral tone. That in spite of such conditions among the vast body of professional nurses serious crime is unknown is a high tribute to the innate morality of womanhood in the face of direct incentive to the reverse. Their opportunities and temptations are perhaps unique. That because of bad conditions the less conscientious and the morally weak gain recreation at a fearful price can hardly be a matter for surprise, and it is on this weakness that the proprietors of certain Nursing Homes trade. Be that as it may, there is a growing feeling among well-to-do people

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