

are accustomed to pay for nursing at the rate of 5 to 6 marks and more a day, it ought to be required of the private nurse, that she should be fully capable of the duties undertaken by her. She ought to possess adaptability to a high degree, because she must continually manage to get on with the most different people and conditions.

Great knowledge of human nature and perfect tact must make it possible for her, always to do and say the right thing. All branches of sick nursing must be well known to her, for from one day to the other she can never know what sort of case she may be called upon to nurse.

As a rule, up till now, a sister's choice of private nursing depended on her great desire for liberty or on the necessity of procuring means to support her relations, *not* on her own gift for it, and on the knowledge necessary for such work.

In the capitals, women, who are often not even nurses themselves, have opened so-called homes, which they fill with sisters by dint of advertising. They pay them a low salary which is indeed generally a little higher than what the religious or secular mother houses give, but not high enough to attract good nurses. To be sure, they frequently offer their sisters to the public at lower prices.

These have drawn a class of nurses into the private nursing professional ranks of the worst and lowest kind, who disgrace the nurse's dress and make it an object of derision—nay, have made it a cloak for vice.

Face to face with this, we must seriously demand that doctors and the public take sides with us, and in future help to ensure that employment in private houses is given only to suitable and really careful trained nurses.

At times when illness is very prevalent unfortunately there will not be a sufficient number of such nurses. But when State Registration has been in force for some time, and creates a better foundation, especially when its plan of instruction is extended to three years, we may hope to find throughout a higher degree of excellence in private nursing.

For the sake of independent work in private and parish nursing, we cannot desire too earnestly that the possibility of undertaking such independent work after one year, or after a one-sided training, may soon altogether cease.

It is also greatly to be desired and striven after that a special preparation should be made possible for these branches of work, that the younger sisters may be taught by experienced members of their profession. There is a great need, too, of courses of invalid cookery. Such courses are planned in the Lette

House for sisters for next winter, one of our large educational institutions for women's professions. Every hospital, however, ought to have them as part of the nursing curriculum.

The residential conditions of private nurses are exceedingly different. Besides the already mentioned exploiting institutions, there are large and smaller homes, which, under experienced professional management, collect a number of carefully selected, able Sisters. For rent, telephone, printing expenses, and so on fixed sums are asked—between 20 and 30 marks a month; for board 1.25-1.75 marks a day. The well-managed homes discard unsuitable elements, are a protection to the public and the Sisters, and a great relief to the doctors. According to the same model, there are, of course, a great number of unsatisfactory homes, under the management of unsuitable individuals, who are unable to collect a good class of Sisters, nor can they give them or preserve for them the good connections they need. The tone in such houses may be imagined. In a lesser degree, large and small partnership arrangements are being developed, in which the common expenses are borne by all in equal part; the success of such arrangements depends on one Sister's undertaking the management as honorary work, in order to maintain outward dignity and inward order.

This kind of arrangement will probably show itself to be the most rational, because of the democratic tendency of our times and the growing independence of nurses.

A small number of private nurses are fortunate enough to be able to live with relations or friends; their only care is how to secure a good and easily attainable telephone connection, in case circumstances prevent their having one of their own.

A few nurses, who do not care to live in company with many others, dwell in furnished rooms. This is, however, only advisable when possessing a large connection or suitable arrangements for the assignment of patients.

### The £100 Registration Fund.

|                           | £  | s. | d. |
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| Carried forward ... ..    | 21 | 8  | 0  |
| Miss Mary Dawson ... ..   | 10 | 0  |    |
| Miss S. Cartwright ... .. | 10 | 0  |    |
| Miss L. Warrener ... ..   | 10 | 0  |    |
| Miss E. Warrener ... ..   | 5  | 0  |    |
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