

ever, and she thought it was "an abominable shame" for the Board to advertise for probationers. The advertisement was deceiving. Several of the Guardians considered the letter very impertinent, but Councillor Butler remarked that he did not know what the nurse would have said had she come there when the probationers were charged £5. He said he was very glad such a letter had been written, and suggested that the Board should insert it when again advertising for probationers, and add: "I have told you for years that it is a swindle."—Mrs. Webb: "A very rude letter."—Councillor Butler: "A very just letter."

All such discussions would be at an end if there was a central nursing authority to discriminate between institutions which can train nurses and those which cannot, and to define the curriculum required. At present it is cheap to nurse patients with probationers, and every institution, whether suitable or not, assumes the status of a training school.

The *Queen's Nurses' Journal* for October has as frontispiece a lifelike portrait of Miss Cowper, Superintendent of Scottish Branch, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, which many friends will like to possess. The Queen's Nurses' tribute, a chaplet of flowers sent to the funeral of the late Miss Florence Nightingale is also reproduced. Nothing could be more instructive than the letter from Miss Nightingale on the Establishment of the Queen's Institute, written from South Street, in 1896, to the Duke of Westminster, one of the Trustees. She writes:—"We look upon the District Nurse, if she is what she should be, and if we give her the training she should have, as the great civiliser of the poor, training as well as nursing them out of ill health into good health (Health Missioners), out of drink into self-control; but all without preaching, without patronising, as friends in sympathy. But let them hold the standard high as nurses."

Surely if this means anything it means that District Nurses should be *highly cultured* women as well as highly trained—a standard, more's the pity, which has been sadly lowered by the craze for cheap philanthropy where the rural poor are concerned.

The Magazine is full of good things, and we should have imagined inspired as it is with a high ethical tone, full of excellent articles, news, and helpfulness, and the four issues only costing 1s. 6d., including postage—that every Queen's Nurse in the world would subscribe for

it, and yet how disheartening to read the Editor's note to the effect that the future fate of this most excellent magazine is uncertain. "There is again a deficit this year, and the position will have to be seriously considered." We do most earnestly advise those interested in District Nursing to send a postcard to the Editor without delay, informing her that they intend to become subscribers. Clandeboye, co. Down, Ireland, will find her.

There is to be a great Healtheries Exhibition held in Dublin next May. The section dealing with District Nursing is to be one of its chief features, and will no doubt be a great success. The Exhibition will be known as *Um Braisil*—the Isle of the Blest—the presumption being that where the laws of sanitation and hygiene rule there will be found a healthy and happy community.

The *Australasian Nurses' Journal* says that Miss Amy Hughes, who has returned to England, left Australia before she was able to see the initiation of the proposed District Nursing scheme, and although Miss Hughes' visit has not had all the result that was hoped, all those who know the work she has done agree that in all parts of Australia much has been learnt from her of District Nursing, its methods, uses, and possibilities. "It is not an easy thing to found an Association which shall be acceptable to, and workable in, a number of States covering a whole continent and differing so widely in conditions. It seems probable that the simpler way will be for each State to establish a County District Nursing Association of its own, using as a basis the rules and regulations which have been so thoroughly threshed out by those working with Lady Dudley during the last few months, and for federal union to follow and combine such kindred associations instead of preceding them."

The *Journal* promises to keep the nurses informed as soon as any authoritative body is formed in any State.

The public generally fear the great expense entailed by the organisation of a Federal District Nursing Association, on just economic principles, as the Nurses' Associations are determined to maintain the three years' standard of training, and it is estimated that each nurse would cost at least £150 a year instead of £90, her salary to be estimated at £100 instead of £35, as in the United Kingdom; moreover, no underselling by insufficiently trained women, with a few months' experience only, is to be permitted.

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