

to get some one who will help them in time of sickness, who may not be a fully-trained nurse, but who will have had sufficient training to see the Doctor's orders are carried out, to render first aid, and to settle the bedridden with some degree of comfort. We do not wish or intend to "present to the poor" "these uneducated girls" as fully-trained nurses. The only Branch, so far as I know, where the Holt Ockley system is being tried is Bree, co. Wexford, of which I am President. The whole scheme was put before the P.P., and every detail circulated to every member. The objections which were raised to it by the nursing world in the Irish Homestead were fully ventilated. In spite of all this the members declared for the general training in preference to midwifery only (our only alternative as regards cash) and in consequence one of our members, a very intelligent girl of 27 has gone to London to be trained for seven months, three months at general nursing, which we hope will at least teach her how to apply poultices, change bed linen, wash patients, and render first aid to the injured, and four months at midwifery. We would much like to leave her for two months more at midwifery, but funds will not allow. If however, your readers, who feel that this training is so very inefficient will subscribe the extra money required before February next we shall be everlastingly grateful to them.

You say "if their wealthier neighbours organise schemes to provide them with nurses," &c. This is where you make a mistake. The "United Irishwomen" are not a society of wealthy women. They are a society of women who hope by co-operation to improve many things affecting them in rural Ireland. It is hoped all classes will join, and so they have, but it should put the Society in its proper sphere when J, a farmer, and the wife of a farmer, am made President. I concur most heartily with your suggestion that Irish Matrons should join our Society and help us with expert advice. All particulars of membership can be obtained from Miss C. Pim, Hon. Sec., The Plunkett House, Dublin.

There are many parishes in Ireland where there is no resident of independent means. All are working for their living. The only means of getting money for these would be through some National Fund. Are not the Societies already existing for this purpose almost at the end of their tether for want of money?

We want this Irish Village Nurse question thoroughly threshed out, and we want those good and devoted nurses of whom we so often hear to give us their help in determining what scheme we adopt. I feel so sure that if I could show some of them the hardship suffered by the sick poor and the impossibility of collecting sufficient money for a fully-trained nurse they would do their very best to help us to devise some plan whereby we can accomplish our object.

I could furnish you with particulars of conditions of life in many parts of Ireland, but they would be painful reading. The size of districts dispensary

doctors have to manage; the custom prevailing whereby when one Doctor goes away for a holiday the one in the adjoining district takes his work, which often means that the doctor is thirty miles from some of his patients. The ass and car which are usually the only thing available to send for Doctor or Nurse; the havoc the "Handy Women" work amongst the poor who live far from the Maternity Nurse. All these things would fill columns. But enough; I hope, with the help of the Nurses, some scheme will be evolved. The matter is in abler hands than mine, and I will not suggest.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. LETT,

President, United Irishwomen.

Ballynadara, Enniscorthy.

HOW TO START A NURSING HOME.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you tell me how to get a book called "How to start a Nursing Home"? I am told that such a thing exists, but do not know where it is published, nor by whom it is written.

Yours truly,

(Miss) M. E. FEILD.

St. Petersburg.

[Perhaps some of our readers may know of such a book. We do not.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Sister S., Birmingham.—See note *re* Insurance Bill. We are in favour of an Approved Society of Women Nurses only being formed. There is no reason in these days for women to allow all the management and resulting patronage of their financial societies to be managed for them by men. The fact that in all such societies the best places and highest salaries are always allotted to men is most unfair.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION FOR JANUARY.

January 6th.—What is an aneurism? How should a patient suffering from one be treated?

January 13th.—How should male nurses be trained to fit them for their duties?

January 20th.—How would you deal with the umbilical cord, from the moment of birth till its separation from the child?

January 27th.—What care must be taken when removing the clothes of a person badly burned?

NOTICE.

THE ISLA STEWART ORATION PAMPHLET.

The Isla Stewart Oration Pamphlet with Portrait will be published on January 3rd. To be obtained from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price One Shilling.

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