

DAILY VISITING NURSING.

The possibilities of daily visiting nursing were discussed in a paper by Miss Moore, who however considered that, to make it pay, the nurse must work night and day, but that as a means of increasing an income it affords a free and independent life.

Miss Marsters thought that a District Nursing Association could often send on cases to a visiting nurse especially for night duty. A member of the audience mentioned the case of a patient with £20,000 a year who as a subscriber of 15s. a year to a district nursing association, insisted on having one of its nurses for night duty.

SESSION II.

Miss L. V. Haughton, Matron of Guy's Hospital, presided at the Evening Session, and in introducing Miss Fox, the reader of the first Paper (on Nursing Ethics), said that the subject deals with our relation to each other, to the medical profession, and to the public. That there is no doubt the schools pay great attention to practical details, but are not always so particular in giving instruction on the question of ethics, and nurses sometimes fail in the way they conduct their business relations and manage their professional engagements.

NURSING ETHICS.

Miss E. M. Fox, Matron of the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham, expressed the view that the ethics of the nursing profession are in danger of being overlooked, and that, as an American writer has pointed out, we run some risk of losing out of the very heart of nursing that which is to its welfare what the Capitol was to Rome. We live in a commercial age, and may lose the spirit of the Great Healer. Every profession has its science of morals, which is not apart from the universal law, but a closer application of that law. The speaker referred to the oath administered to graduating nurses in the Toronto Training Schools, which she described as a vow of loyalty to patients and physicians. She spoke of the loyalty of the members of the medical profession to one another, and as a proof of its solidarity, instanced the way in which it has rallied to the call to oppose the Insurance Bill. She spoke of the insidious flattery of patients who told the nurse they would rather have her opinion than the doctor's any day. The ideal nurse was, she said, very reserved and reticent, especially as to her own affairs. She instanced the unwisdom of the nurse who informs her patient that she is so dead tired that she cannot put one foot before another.

She spoke of uniform, which is sometimes worn so as to be repellent rather than attractive. The ethics of personal appearance demand that the nurse shall be clean and tidy and her uniform in order, whereas it is sometimes worn even with stockings in holes. Carelessness in dress and manner does not inspire confidence.

She mentioned a private nurse who stated that she could not go to a case with less than three

evening gowns, the bad taste of nurses who spoke to patients of valuable gifts received from others they had nursed, and condemned the acceptance of secret commissions.

To ensure the subject being understood the lecturer expressed the opinion that lectures in ethics should be given to probationers.

Miss Brey suggested that it would be conducive to clearness if those included in the nursing profession, who should be bound by nursing ethics, were defined. She thought nurses were accused of many offences against their professional code which were not committed by their own members.

The chairman said that until the profession was recognized by the State it was very hard to define who were its members. She thought the definition might be those who had received full hospital training.

Miss Rosalind Paget asked when the nurse's duty to the doctor and the patient conflicted, which came first. The chairman thought no general rule could be laid down, but that each case must be left to the nurse to find the right way out. Miss Paget said that one's outlook on leaving hospital and ten years later was very different.

OPHTHALMIC NURSING.

In a paper on the above subject, read by Miss Vaughan, stress was laid on the fact that no strong antiseptic should be used in eye work. In the preparation of the patient for operation attention should be paid to the hair. Discharge from the eyes, ears, nose, and sores on the head were an indication that operation should be deferred. Perchloride of mercury lotion 1 in 10,000 is usually used for syringing eyes. After an operation for glaucoma the head should be kept between sand bags for twenty-four hours, and it is of the utmost importance that vomiting should not occur.

In reply to a question as to why a solution of 1 in 10,000 of mercury was used in preference to sterile water, as the former was of no value as a germicide, a member of the audience stated "we always used it in Jerusalem." Miss Marsters emphasised the importance of experience in eye work for district nurses.

THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MENTAL NURSING.

Miss Burnaby Davies, Sister at St. Luke's Hospital, Old Street, E.C., said that it was not a difficult matter for an ordinary intelligent person to appreciate the responsibilities and position of the nurse with general training, but mental nursing is very imperfectly understood. General training alone is of no use in dealing with an acute mental case. The nurse must have had a long and thorough training in mental work.

The classification of the various forms of insanity is possibly a fairly simple matter. To manage an insane case as the different temperament and mental condition demands is another and more difficult business altogether.

(To be continued.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)