

association where there is a Lady Bountiful (and there are many such) she often gets more than the 16s. or 18s. during her three years' service."

In our opinion this is a wretched wage to provide for rent, board, clothes, washing, disinfection and the personal needs of any nurse, to say nothing of "personal pleasures"!—also the cadging for crumbs from the rich man's table is a very undesirable and demoralising element in the bargain.

As cottage helps—not dressed up in the uniform of the trained nurse—these workers may be all Mr. Bruxner claims for them. He goes so far as to state "it would be nothing short of a crime to stop the creation of them," but we protest with every ounce of expert knowledge we possess against substituting them for efficiently trained Queen's Nurses—claiming that they have neither the education nor the knowledge to fit them for the responsible duties of school nurses, or as nurses for the insured sick.

It is bad manners to look a gift horse in the mouth.

The provision of cottage and village nurses as a gift by my Lady Bountiful for "my peasants" in their sore times of sickness is one thing, but, when the rates and taxes are required to bolster up her bounties, we claim that the nursing, for which the sick poor are called upon to pay, should be of such a standard and quality that it would suffice for the requirements of those who supply it to them in their own time of need!

Another Utopian aspiration, no doubt in the opinion of Mr. Bruxner; but a modicum of justice which the nursing profession and the ratepayers must claim for the defenceless poor, if "trained nursing" in their case is not to continue to be a sham and a delusion!

That remuneration for women's work—which is arduous and responsible in the extreme—should be battered down to the uttermost farthing, is a scandalous perversion of charity, against which we intend to protest with all our power. When such sweating is done through the medium of rates and taxes we are on firm ground in protesting.

Alas! Political power is the only remedy. Without the vote we may protest, but we have no power to make our protest effective.

Women workers will continue to be sweated until they can demand just conditions of life through the vote.

PRESENTATION.

Miss Annie Shorter, who for twelve and a half years has been Matron of the Woolwich and Plumstead Cottage Hospital, Shooter's Hill, has, on her resignation to take up the position of Matron of one of the houses at Brighton College, received handsome gifts from the medical and the nursing staffs, as well as from the Woolwich Dockyard Division of the Metropolitan Police in appreciation of the care and kindness shown to members who have been inmates of the hospital during the time she has held the office of Matron.

POOR LAW MATRONS AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD OFFICE.

Mr. Francis, Secretary to the Orders Committee of the Local Government Board, last week received on behalf of the Board, a deputation from the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, on the subject of the position of the Superintendent-Nurse. The deputation consisted of the following Matrons: Miss Barton (Chelsea Infirmary), President; Miss Cockrell (St. Marylebone Infirmary), Hon. Treasurer; Miss Todd (St. James' Infirmary, Balham), Hon. Secretary; Miss Alsop (Kensington Infirmary), Assistant Hon. Secretary; Miss Preston (Mile End Infirmary); Miss Elma Smith (Central London Sick Asylum, Hendon); Miss Hannaford (Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum); Miss Dowbiggin (Edmonton Infirmary); Miss Mowatt (Whitechapel Infirmary); and Miss Myles, Superintendent-Nurse (Brighton Infirmary). Miss Masters (Leicester Poor Law Infirmary), who was prevented from attending, sent a paper, embodying her views.

We understand that there is a general consensus of opinion amongst Poor Law Matrons as to the position which the Superintendent Nurse should hold.

There has been a good deal of friction in the past in places where the infirmaries are not separated from the workhouses, owing to the fact that the trained Superintendent Nurse has been placed under the untrained Matron and Matron of the Workhouse, and in a hundred petty ways her life has often been made so uncomfortable that many good nurses will not put in for these posts.

The proposed new Order now under consideration by the Local Government Board will not, it is feared, mend matters, as, if it is carried into effect, though the jurisdiction of the Matron over the Superintendent Nurse will end, this professional worker will practically be responsible for her nursing, and for the conduct of the nurses and servants under her, to the Master.

This difficulty might be met in small places where there are only three or four nurses, by insisting on the Matron being a trained nurse, and giving her trained assistance. In the larger places those well qualified to judge consider that the Superintendent Nurse should be responsible to the Medical Officer and the Board of Guardians only, and that the Master, in relation to the sick wards, should be in the same position as the Steward in the larger infirmaries.

We hope that the Orders Committee of the Local Government Board, which has the subject under consideration, in connection with the Draft Order, will understand that good, well-trained nurses will not apply in any numbers for these posts under lay supervision, and sometimes—it must be added—tyranny. Yet these positions are important and responsible, and much of the comfort of the sick poor in the country depends upon the right kind of people accepting them.

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