

the monthly contributions of our nurses, their services being given gratuitously. In Mississippi Valley last winter, when the great flood was raging, more than 1,000 people were deprived of their homes and all they possessed.

A camp was opened by Mayor Crump for these unfortunate people. More than 900 of this number were negroes. One of our nurses was placed in charge of this camp, and through her efforts a milk station was started, where the mothers could get food for their babies.

She taught them hygiene as best she could under such conditions. We feel that her efforts were well rewarded, there being only one death reported during the months she was in charge.

When we consider the admirable work being done by our nurses in the south land we are forced to believe that, with the co-operation of such organizations as we have in the north, the good accomplished would exceed our greatest desire. The negro nurse in New York City, Pennsylvania, and other northern States is taking her share in this social movement.

But she, unlike the nurse in the south, has the advantage of the organized and systematized work, for which she receives remuneration.

Our nurses are engaged in the Board of Health Department, milk stations, investigating tubercular cases, district nursing, settlement work, day nurseries, and orphan asylums for negro children.

Their field of usefulness in the north among our people cannot be over-estimated. It is realized that prophylactic work being done by these nurses in their various positions is indispensable.

I think there is no greater opportunity offered the graduate nurse to do real social work than in the public schools and orphan asylums.

Here she meets the young children. She can instil the right principles before their minds are impregnated with wrong ideas by the ignorant parents.

In the orphanage she has much broader opportunities than the school nurse. Here she comes in daily contact with the children. She can divide them in groups or classes, according to age or intelligence.

And with her knowledge of anatomy, physiology, social diseases, and sex hygiene, she is able to teach them valuable lessons in regard to the care of their bodies. And last, but greatest of all, is the grand and noble privilege of presenting to them the highest ideal in life—Jesus Christ. And thus by slow degrees we are following more and more the example of our more favoured sisters.

The negro nurse is doing her share in the work of blessing humanity. Surely no other class of people need more sorely the social work

in all its phases than do my people. And in the last analysis no one can do this work for her people more effectively than the coloured nurse.

Blessed with the privilege of co-operating with such an organization as yours, edified and inspired by contact with those who have years of civilization, training, and experience, she becomes fitted to carry the light to her people, and help them towards becoming a strong race, vigorous both in body and mind.

May her work continue to broaden until she, too, joins the choir invisible, whose music makes the gladness of the world.

I am indeed proud to be numbered among this body of noble women, who, with all the advantages of higher education, have retained that missionary spirit which is so commendable in the sight of God.

THE SPECTRE OF PESTILENCE.

Pestilence and famine. Cholera and dysentery are ravaging the Turkish Army, and have attacked the Bulgarians. The Mosque of St. Sophia at Constantinople is being used as a hospital, and the widespread misery occasioned by war is amazing. One reads of the futility of the field surgeons when faced with thousands of men dying in agony for lack of treatment, water and nursing. Then one realises that a generous public has subscribed some £30,000; and that the British Red Cross Committee is spending it in surgical stores and men; and that the services of trained nurses, who should have been poured into the Near East a month ago, are still being refused by the Committee, and that only twelve trained women nurses have been despatched, and these through the favour of Royal commands, and not at the call of humanity.

How do the Nursing Profession in England feel about this question? Surely warmly indignant that their skilled work has been ignored, and that they have been prevented giving, as hundreds are prepared to give, their invaluable services to stricken people. Excuses about personal danger may be discounted. Our nurses would be as safe throughout the sphere of war as they are at home; and as to danger to health, a nurse takes her life in her hands in times of peace as well as war, and it is her glory to risk it. One thing is certain. If the British Red Cross Society is going to exclude trained nursing from its scheme of treatment for the sick and wounded in war, some other Society must step in and organize such a service without delay.

It is consoling to know that the contingent sent to Turkey by the Red Crescent Society,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)