

In reply to Sir Archibald Williamson, on January 30th, Mr. Masterman said that the Commissioners had no funds from which to make any grant for the support of district nurses. Under section 21 of the Act an approved society or an Insurance Committee might subscribe for that purpose, and experience of the working of the Act was necessary to show what would be the effect of that provision.

We are glad to note that the three lady guardians of the Wrexham Board opposed the recommendation made at a recent meeting that the matron of the Workhouse be appointed Superintendent Nurse.

The Chairman, Dr. S. Edwards Jones, said they had spent £15,000 on the institution, and it should be efficiently and thoroughly staffed. If the matron was placed in a dual capacity this would not be the case.

To save £50 a year the matron was deputed to do double duty, which of course she has not the time to perform efficiently.

Two publications by trained nurses have recently appeared which will arouse discussion, one "The Poodle Woman," by Miss Annesley Kenealy, the first of a series of "Votes for Women" novels, proves how helpless married women are legally where their honour, and care of their own children are concerned, and "Medical Tyranny," a personal experience, by Miss Alice J. Beatty, which opens up the old grievance which stirred medical circles to their depths some years ago, in the Beatty v. Callingworth case. Both authors impeach the law, and in our opinion justly so.

Our experience of its methods has convinced us that drastic reform is required in its standards of justice, if women are to retain a shred of respect for its pronouncements.

Among the scattered dwellers of rural regions throughout the United States there is no extensive, systematically organized and supervised service of nursing such as we find well developed in Great Britain and Canada. In only a few instances has nursing care been possible to the sick person in the country. It is in consequence of this great need that the American Red Cross has undertaken the establishment of a Rural Nursing Service to cover fields not reached by city nursing organizations. The great opportunities for humanitarian and educational work to be found in rural communities will appeal to nurses who

understand and enjoy country life and people, and who are interested in social work and public health movements. It is the aim of the Rural Nursing Service to maintain an efficient and permanent staff. Nurses who have had training or experience that particularly qualify them for rural work will receive special financial recognition. In order to assist nurses who wish to prepare for this work arrangements have been made with certain Visiting Nursing Associations to accept them as students for a four months' course. Realizing the necessity of this training, a loan fund has been provided by the Red Cross which will be available to a limited number of nurses. In order to maintain a uniform standard of nursing in rural communities all Red Cross rural nurses will be under the general direction and supervision of the Superintendent or such assistants as may be necessary. This will not, however, interfere with their responsibility to the committee or organization representing the Red Cross in the community under which the local work will be conducted. It is hoped that the opportunities of this new work will appeal to visiting nurses throughout the country, to enrolled Red Cross nurses, to private duty nurses who look for a broader field of activity, and to undergraduates whose choice has not yet been made.

We learn from the report of the Strangers' Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, which is doing such good work under the control of a most liberal-minded Board of Directors, that patients of no less than 15 nationalities have been treated during the past year ending June 30th, 1912. The Matron, Miss Annie Jackson, reports that the nursing staff, when complete, consists of a matron, an assistant matron, six sisters, one probationer, and one male nurse. Various changes have taken place during the year. Miss Steyskal and Miss Campbell returned from England to resume work, Miss Carrick has joined the staff, and Miss Milne, on returning from her holiday, accepted the position of Assistant Matron and acted for Miss Jackson during her leave of absence. Miss Kent has been absent on furlough, and Miss Wyatt left at the same time in order to take a special course of training, and Miss Coggin left with the intention of taking her general training at home. The need of prolonged furlough for European nurses in a hospital in the tropics is always a cause of difficulty and expense, but under Miss Jackson's able management these are reduced to a minimum, and it is satisfactory to note that both nurses at home on furlough were re-engaged for a further term of service.

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