

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

NURSING PROGRESS IN CANADA.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have been out here (New Westminster, B.C.), a little over four months now, and so am getting quite used to the life and the people here. . . .

I have begun private nursing on my own account. I am getting to know the doctors, having called on most of them; and I have also joined the association for graduate nurses here, of which there are twenty-four members at present. The doctors are very keen on fully-trained nurses. At present we haven't registration, but we are hoping to get it very soon; and the President of our association is awfully keen on State registration. In a few years' time the untrained nurse out here will stand no chance at all. So it is no use maternity nurses coming out, unless they have general training too. Midwives do not attend cases without a doctor, so it seems to me that the C.M.B. is scarcely essential, and that a monthly nursing certificate is all that is needful. The doctors don't seem to know what the C.M.B. is; and if you can do maternity nursing that is sufficient for them. I am glad I have my C.M.B. certificate all the same; it might be useful to know what to do in case of an emergency. I am hoping also to make something of my massage—one or two of the doctors told me they were glad to know I did it, as it would save their sending to Vancouver for a masseuse. I am now on my fourth case—an old lady who had a seizure about a week ago; and I have a maternity case for the end of the month. All fees are twenty-five dollars a week for any kind of nursing. So, if I get plenty of cases, I shall be able to invest in a lot or two, and make my fortune in no time!!! Of course, it costs more to live than in the old country. I have to pay ten dollars a month for my room, but for that I have every comfort and convenience, and also the telephone.

I like the middle-class houses here much better than those at home; they are all so beautifully warmed in winter, by means of a furnace in the basement mostly; and then all have the electric light and every convenience for making house-work easy. Nurses have to help in the house often; this is the first house so far I have been in where help is kept. At my last case I had to cook dinner every day for two men, as well as look after my patient. The husbands all give a helping-hand with the work, and make fires, empty ashes, get in wood and coal, and help with the washing-up. I have got quite used to their washing the dishes, whilst I wipe them! I cannot imagine our Englishmen helping in the same way. They call it "doing the chores."

I am glad I came here, and not to Vancouver—for already Vancouver is over-crowded with nurses, and they say there are enough here for the present. I think about twelve new ones arrived here during last year. But still the "Royal City," as it is

called, is growing rapidly, and also the surrounding districts. New districts seem to be cropping up almost daily.

I was a fortnight and two days on my journey on my way out. We were delayed, owing to fog on the boat, and a land-slide on the train. The scenery through the Rockies was truly wonderful; the mountains, with their snow-covered peaks, looked so magnificent and grand. We are surrounded almost by mountains here, all of which have been covered with snow all the winter. They do look beautiful on a clear, sunny day, when the sun is shining on them. We are situated at the mouth of the Fraser River.

As a rule, the winters here are mild, but this year it has been exceptionally severe, and snow has lain on the ground since New Year's day—and nearly three feet of it too. The atmosphere has been just at freezing-point, so we have had no slush yet. It will be pretty bad when the thaw comes, I expect. On the whole, the climate is pretty much the same as in the old country.

I have the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING sent to me every week, and I do so love to hear what is going on in the nursing world in the old land.

If I have done nothing else, I have escaped the Insurance Act by coming out here!

FLORENCE TAYLOR

(late R.N.S.)

January.

Writing from Victoria (B.C.), Miss V. Baird says: "THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is always so welcome in this far-off land where we are very glad to have news of all that is being done at home for the advancement of nursing. Victoria is going to have a new and very much larger hospital built in the near future, which will serve as a provincial hospital."

Another Canadian correspondent writes: "I was so pleased to note last year that in your opinion all Canadian Provincial Parliaments will have to pass Bills for the Registration of Nurses, now that Ontario has done so. You will be pleased to know that Manitoba does not mean to be left out in the cold. A Bill is to be introduced in the present session of the Legislature, to incorporate the Order of Nurses. It will institute examination tests, and grant a degree with the protected title of Registered Nurse (R.N. for short). Thus a minimum standard will be defined. It is not, however, sought to make the profession an exclusive one, and prevent from practice those who have not passed the tests. This, it is felt, would be such a hardship on the public, particularly in the country, that it is believed for the present at least to be quite impracticable; but the public will know what standard of nursing they are paying for, if they employ an 'R.N.'; and that will satisfy us nurses. Also, we shall be able to do much more to help the public to be well served, which is, after all, a good nurse's first ambition. Many Canadian nurses realise how much they owe to the teaching of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

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