

Home is not to their taste. Something must be done to encourage the right type of woman to train, and that something must consist principally in the conjoint government of men and women educationalists in the management of Nursing Schools. The bossing of nursing education by male philanthropists, financiers, and social climbers, has brought the whole question perilously near disaster. All over the country the very poor in their homes and in many Poor Law institutions are at the mercy of illiterate and ignorant attendants, who have no claim to the title of trained nurse at all.

It is the duty of the really humane to help to remedy this most sad condition of affairs. The nursing profession for the future is apparently not going to pay the whole cost. There must be a re-adjustment of conditions of education, service, remuneration, and status. Then we have every hope that the supply will amply meet the demand. The Nurses' Registration Bill is the open sesame for this happier condition of affairs.

THE NURSING OF THE INSURED SICK.

Miss A. C. Lowe, Secretary of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, writes from the offices of the Institute, 58, Victoria Street, S.W., with reference to the provision of nursing for those who are insured under the Insurance Act.

After pointing out that under the Act, the Approved Societies have the power of providing their members with the services of a district nurse when they are laid up ill in their own homes, Miss Lowe says: "Now that the Insurance Act has been in actual operation for some months, the time seems to have come for the societies to take advantage of the power given them of providing their members with the services of nurses. It is obvious that the general establishment of a system of co-operation between the societies and the nursing associations must be done gradually and with great care, and in such a manner as to see how best such co-operation can be arranged. It is suggested that such a system should be started experimentally in the administrative county of Kent, and societies aggregating a membership of more than a quarter of the insured persons in that county have already intimated their willingness to try such an experiment, provided that a scheme which shall be mutually satisfactory to the societies who signify their intention of joining in the experiment, and to the nursing associations, and to the Queen's Jubilee Institute, can be drawn up. The liability of the societies under the experiment would not exceed in all 3d. a year for each member living in the districts in which the nursing was undertaken, and they would expect to be furnished with reports, showing, amongst other things, each case in which the nurses had attended a member of their societies, and the number of visits paid to them. The payment by the Approved Societies would not cover the attendance of the nurses in

maternity cases, or in cases of persons suffering from tuberculosis and being treated by the Insurance Committee under the sanatorium benefit clauses of the Act. In those districts in which the provident system is already in operation the money received from the societies for the nursing of the insured persons would be really additional to that paid for the nursing of the whole family, and no distinction, at any rate for the purpose of this experiment, would seem to be necessary between members of societies who are paying and those who are members of societies who are not paying; but in the case of those places, mostly in towns, where the provident system does not at present prevail, the payment would be treated in the same way as the payment on behalf of individual families under the provident system in villages, and members of societies who did not pay would only be able to obtain the services of the nurses for themselves on payment of fees by the case or by the visit, in the same way as those in the villages who do not make a provident subscription. It must be clearly understood that this would apply to the insured individuals only, and would not interfere in any way with the attendance of the nurses upon the dependants of insured persons.

We should be glad to hear from all societies with members in the county of Kent who would be willing to join in this experiment. A meeting will be held of those representing the societies and those representing the nursing associations, to draw up a scheme for the working of the experiment."

The nursing of the insured sick is a national question requiring much consideration as to the best method of organisation. The object to be attained is to provide thoroughly trained nurses for all insured persons who require nursing assistance, and the State should accept no lower standard. The question is complicated by the fact that while the standards for medical practitioners and midwives are defined by law, there is no legal standard for a trained nurse; and it is, therefore, open to any Insurance Committee or Approved Society to define its own standard, however inadequate its conception of the standard required may be. We shall refer again to this very important question.

On Monday a conference was held at 82, Victoria Street, S.W., between the Sub-Committee on Nursing of the Association of Approved Societies, and representatives of the following societies; the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, the Matrons' Council, the National Council of Trained Nurses, the Nurses' Social Union, and the Ranyard Nurses, to discuss the nursing of insured persons.

At the same time a meeting was held at the Local Government Board Office to consider a nursing scheme, so it is to be hoped that in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom.

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