

At a recent meeting of the Chippenham Guardians Mrs. Fuller said she was very sorry to have to report that they had got no more forward in their search for a head nurse for the workhouse. Following her instructions, the Master had inserted further advertisements in the papers offering £40 per annum. This had only attracted one who seemed to be worth consideration. They had written to her asking her to attend, but she had then written back thanking them for the invitation, but declining to come. They were now employing a temporary nurse at two guineas per week. She thought they should offer £45 per annum. She thought the Master would bear her out when she said that the supply of nurses in the country was very, very short. Every institution was experiencing the same difficulty.

The Master said the Swindon Guardians had been advertising for a nurse for about five months. He had been talking with Mr. Thompson, the Local Government Board inspector, who had spoken of the shortage of nurses. He thought there were not so many girls going in for training as there were; also at the Metropolitan institutions they could get £40 per annum and had plenty of company. Their last applicant had been 47 years of age.

Miss Katharine A. Scott, R.N., a member of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, gives a most interesting description in *League News* of the special course for graduate nurses taken in connection with the Instructive District Nursing Association, and the School for Social Workers in Boston. The course lasts eight months from the last week in September to the end of the first week in June, and is open to graduate registered nurses desiring further instruction in public health nursing and social work. The time has been equally divided between the Instructive District Nursing Association and the School, three days a week being given to each.

Miss Scott writes in part:—

“Our work at the School comprises two lectures a week; on which a comment *must* be written. Once a week a conference is held on these comments, when misunderstandings can be adjusted and each student has an opportunity to present her views, thereby gaining experience in the art of public speaking. A study class of two hours' duration is conducted each week, in preparation for which there are eight hours of prescribed reading; each student comes prepared to discuss problems previously suggested.

The lectures cover the sociological aspect of

the normal family, its relation to housing, sanitation, recreation, industry, immigration, and neighbourhood and civic problems. Then persons detached from their own family life—the sick, homeless, crippled, inebriate, insane, blind and deaf, law-breakers, dependent and delinquent children; the organization of charity, principles of relief, and relation of civics and philanthropy. We also visited several institutions and had ‘talks’ by the superintendents. We had the advantage of hearing the lectures in connection with the extension course dealing with the medical-social aspect of disease.

Six hours weekly are given to the associated charities, practical work (under supervision of expert worker) with needy families, co-operation with various agencies and attendance at the weekly conference, a gathering representative of that district, where the most difficult problems are discussed and one finds the practical application of principles learned in the classroom.

The tuition fee for the School is £12, and board and lodging and incidentals would cost from £100 to £150. Scholarships for a limited number of nurses may be arranged by the nursing association.

Work with the Instructive District Nursing Association includes practical nursing work in the homes, with experience in prenatal and maternity work, and acute, chronic, and infectious diseases, a knowledge and use of various agencies for the relief or social betterment of the family or individual.

Classes are held on the history and organization of visiting nurse work, infant mortality, tuberculosis, welfare work in factories, and school nursing. Opportunities are given for observation with nurses doing specialized work, and visits are arranged to various institutions.

A weekly conference composed of supervisors, staff nurses, substitute, and post-graduate nurses is held (once a month the Milk and Baby Hygiene nurses join us), at which matters of public health and the various problems met with in the daily work are discussed.

There is also a four months' course arranged by the Instructive District Nursing Association alone, for those nurses who cannot afford to give so much time. It consists of six weeks' practical work in district nursing, two weeks' prenatal experience, one month with the Milk and Baby Hygiene nurses, and one month with the Associated Charities. Classes given by a competent instructor cover, in an elementary way, the school course of the eight months' students. A certain amount of reading is

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