

notably Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, treat them under the supervision of a special doctor.

4. Children suffering from adenoids, enlarged tonsils, defects of vision, and teeth, needing attention, are given vouchers to attend at the various Hospitals and Treatment Centres, where special arrangements have been made to receive and treat them. Much visiting and many enquiries are carried out by members of Care Committees to investigate home conditions, so that if possible the parent shall pay a portion of the expense entailed by the treatment.

It will be seen from this short description, which gives some idea of the duties of a School-Nurse, that her experience should be varied if she is to be equal to the many emergencies which she will meet with. In fact, the valuable School-Nurse is the observant, tactful woman of practical education, not very young, with a love of children, and keen sympathies for their much tried mothers. Such a woman finds great opportunities for good in this work, and becomes a most valuable worker for the good of the race.

In London there are at present working under the London County Council—

District School Nurses	...	...	90
In Treatment Centres and Dental Centres	...	...	10*
At Cleansing Stations	...	...	23
In Physically Def. Schools	...	...	38

There are also Nurses, Inspectors, visiting for "Infant life protection" all houses where nurse children are taken for payment. Some Nurses are also working in connection with the Care Committees.

The Trained Nurse must in the future be reckoned with in all Social Reform Work. She is a Sanitary Inspector, Health Visitor and School Nurse, District Nurse, and in each capacity she takes a recognised place in the community.

School Nurses and Health Visitors are employed by 212 Local Education Authorities, and experiments are being tried in several places of relegating to them the duty of attendance officers—which can be well combined with the duties of a School Nurse.

In nine cases out of ten, the reason given for a child staying out of school is illness, and only a nurse if the child is not ill enough to have a doctor called in, can decide if this reason is a valid one or not.

At present, each Medical Officer of Health pleases himself as to the arrangement of the

School-nurse's duties; and there is therefore very considerable variation; and some are already recommending the employment of more nurses and fewer attendance officers.

On this subject the Report last year of the Board of Education states:—

"That the subject merits the attention of Local Education Authorities for many reasons, one very strong one being that if possible the necessary visiting should be done by one person, as causing less friction and trouble to many a hard-worked and worried mother."

The Medical Officer for Derbyshire says:—

"It is only a woman with nursing experience who can obtain the confidence of the parents and have a ready entry to the house, and who can decide on what course to take in trivial illness, slight accidents and colds."

In many places school-work is being combined with district work, and this is valuable, if it ensures the employment of a well-trained Queen's Nurse, especially where otherwise the necessary funds would be hard to get for district work alone. I should like to urge the necessity for keeping School and Maternity work quite separate. I cannot think it is right to run the risk of infection being carried from the schools. The School Nurse is constantly investigating cases of infectious diseases, and cannot conscientiously come into contact with maternity cases; it is unthinkable that she should be allowed to carry out these two duties at the same time.

In the matter of school-nursing abroad we are behind America and in advance of all European countries.

In Germany—Medical inspection by the doctors is general, but only in a few places do they employ school-nurses; in Charlottenburg, Mannheim, Breslau and Stuttgart there are nurses, and lady helpers in Munich, otherwise teachers assist in the schools. Nursing is yet in its infancy in Germany.

In America there are 500 school nurses of whom no less than 179 are in New York alone. Each nurse in New York has care of about 4,000 children and visits each of her schools daily.

There are six Clinics, all open every afternoon, where minor operations are performed. They are very careful of children operated upon for trachoma, or adenoids, and if necessary they are kept in the Clinic all night, beds being provided for the purpose.

In Canada we know the school nurse is already firmly established; it is only last year I had much pleasure in conferring with Miss Rogers (now Mrs. W. G. Struthers.—Ed.), the

* More are to be opened soon.

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