

The nurse, therefore, endeavours to work single-handed, being assisted, and relieved when necessary, by some member of the family or household.

Manifestly the rules governing the industrial out-worker are inapplicable to the professional in-worker, who is concerned not with inanimate things, but with sentient humanity. The trained and skilled private nurse dealing with the sick has great responsibilities, and must have corresponding liberty of action in the organization of her work. But, just because she does not measure her service in case of need, the public should deal liberally with her, and her fees should be on a scale which will permit her as the exigencies of her work permits, to take the rest which she has foregone when nursing an acute case.

The root of the difficulties of nurses is that the term "trained nurse" is undefined, and skilled compete with unskilled without the protection accorded by the State to the medical profession, and to certified midwives, and as is the case with all unorganized workers, whether industrial or professional, nurses are too often overworked and underpaid.

Nurses holding the certificate of the David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool, and who are now working elsewhere, will be glad to know that a Badge has been adopted, and can be obtained on application to the Matron, Miss E. A. Renaut, price, including postage, in Great Britain 2s. 10d., abroad 3s. We are pleased to give publicity to this announcement, so that nurses trained at the hospital, whose present address is not known to the authorities, may learn of the adoption of the Badge, which is sure to be very popular.

An Address to Nurses delivered to the Nursing Staff of the Retreat at York by Dr. Charles A. Mercier, has been published by the Mental Culture Enterprise, 329, High Holborn, W.C. 1, under the heading, "The Ideal Nurse." "No one," says Dr. Mercier, "can be a good nurse or attendant on either the sane or the insane, who has not a sympathetic nature. Amongst the insane there are some who have a positively diabolical skill in searching out the raw spots in your mind and rubbing salt and pepper into them. They love to give pain and to gloat over the signs of the suffering they inflict. This must be endured.

It must be endured without retaliation and without rejoinder. It is hard to endure, no doubt, especially when there seems so little of insanity about the patient. But it must be suffered, and it will be easier to suffer if we remember first, that rejoinder and retaliation is a confession of defeat. It is the very object of the patient to provoke retaliation, and to gloat over successful provocation; and the way to defeat him, and to convince him of his own impotence to injure, is to suffer long and be kind."

### HOSPITAL SOCIAL SERVICE.

Social Service is a very wide term: the field of its activities is so broad as to be almost limitless. It embodies such things as: economic conditions, organized charity, health and housing, industrial relations, philanthropy, child labour, the campaign against the social evil, and many other things which minister to the welfare of the community. It is no new thing in itself, but the term, and the classification of its various branches, together with the successful organization of the same, belong to our modern civilization. The Christian Social Union was founded to promote social service on the basis of Christian duty and corporate responsibility, and during the twenty-five years and more of its existence there has been a very healthy stirring of the public conscience. "Am I my brother's keeper?" has been practically answered in the affirmative, and we have now happily reached the point of moral evolution at which we recognize the duty of working for, and obtaining elemental human rights for all, regardless of class, religion, or race. One of the most recent developments of social service, and unquestionably one of the most valuable of its branches, is Hospital Social Service. It is a successful effort towards effective relief and treatment within the hospital walls. The first attempt in this direction, as far as we know, was the establishment of Lady Almoners, in the Out-Patients' Departments of our large hospitals. The first one was appointed at the Royal Free Hospital in 1895. This official is a person trained in social questions, and is of course required to have a knowledge of the resources of the community.

The work is of value as far as it goes, but obviously the work of one person, however competent, cannot reach anything like so high a point of usefulness as a large, well-organized staff. Through our professional Internationalism, for which we can never be too

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