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EDITORIAL.

SANATORIA FOR NURSES.

There is probably no disease which the trained nurse so dreads contracting as tuberculosis. There is none which gives better hope of a cure if vigorous treatment is begun at once, and consequently there is nothing sadder than to hear of a patient waiting for a bed in a sanatorium, where treatment gives the best hope of recovery, and, when that patient is a nurse, the effect of waiting is specially prejudicial, because she is well aware of her lessening chances of recovery, and her mental condition reacts unfavourably on her physical one.

The majority of Friendly Societies under the National Insurance Act could provide instances of nurses suffering from tuberculosis and needing sanatorium treatment. Both from the nursing staffs of military and civil hospitals such cases are forthcoming, and the problem is, what is to be done for them, for it is well known that the accommodation in sanatoria for tuberculosis is quite inadequate for the number of cases needing treatment, and that therefore precious time is lost while applicants are waiting for beds. The Trained Women Nurses Friendly Society is keeping a record of such cases, and no doubt other societies are doing the same. If all these were collected they would furnish a sufficient number of patients to fill a small sanatorium devoted to their special use, and, in our view, this is what is needed at the present time.

A nurse sent into an ordinary sanatorium, though she may receive the most skilful treatment, is necessarily lonely, cut off from those with whom her lot has been cast for a number of years, with whom she has much in common, and whose interests are the same as her own. In a sanatorium

devoted to nurses this sense of isolation would be at once removed.

The freemasonry common to all crafts and professions is specially strong amongst nurses, and, in the right hands, such an institution would become very homelike, and the atmosphere very friendly.

For a nurse for whom sanatorium treatment is ordered aversion would be reduced to a minimum if she knew she would be sent to an institution where she would meet other members of her own profession, where special consideration would be given to her needs, and where the arrangements would be such as to attract rather than repel her.

As a class nurses deserve every consideration when threatened with tuberculosis. They spend their lives in the service of the sick, and they know full well the danger which threatens them, and the course taken by the disease; they note its progress, whether favourable or unfavourable, live figuratively with their fingers on their own pulses, and chronicle all their variations. In an institution where she was not a person possessed of special knowledge, but where all the patients were trained nurses, the atmosphere for a nurse-patient would be much more wholesome.

There is no doubt that, so far as the provision of sanatorium treatment for patients suffering from tuberculosis is concerned that the National Insurance Act has broken down hopelessly.

It appears to us most desirable that a sanatorium should be opened, with as little delay as possible, for the reception of nurses, trained and in training, who are suffering from tuberculosis, and who in the opinion of their medical advisers would benefit by residence in such an institution.

Perhaps the Association of Approved Societies could make representations in the proper quarters on this matter.

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