

Under the heading "Wayside Tales," a pleasant little story is told:—

"Public Health Work is often an uphill climb. Discouragements come thick and fast at times, and it takes considerable pluck, faith and vision to keep going, and waiting for the occasional encouragement that does come, usually from almost unexpected quarters.

"In Halifax a little incident occurred lately which goes to show that it is all worth the effort. A mother in very ordinary circumstances, being outside the city limits, came into town to be cared for by the Victorian Order. She left two little children at home in care of their daddy, the oldest not over five years of age. The five-year-old and the three-year-old had for some time been saving their pennies until between them they had amassed two dollars—all in coppers. The V.O.N.s received a little package, and a tiny note, and when they opened it they found these two hundred pennies which the note said were to be given to 'The nurse who took care of mamma and the new baby.' The nurse forgot all about cold nights, long walks, overwork, and felt that she had been amply repaid, and that baby is likely to be a 'Better Baby' because he is so welcome in the family."

We regret to note that at the annual meeting of the Birmingham District Nursing Association, Mrs. Beal, who has been a member of the committee for forty years, spoke in a minor key. She said: "They had often been in tight places, but never had they met with so many difficulties as they had to encounter now. Those difficulties were such that the courage of their devoted superintendents was strained almost to breaking point. She often thought the public did not know the position held by the district nurses in the city, and what it would mean to the suffering poor if they were withdrawn. Those who had had trained nurses in their own homes knew what it meant to the patient and the latter's friends to have a skilful trained woman in attendance. If that was of such importance in those homes, where there were so many alleviations, what must it mean in the homes of the poor, where ignorance and prejudice prevailed and where there were not even the slightest essentials for nursing? Very often, when a nurse arrived to attend a case, she had to send back to the Home for a bed and the elementary appliances for nursing. The society began with one nurse in one district, and gradually increased the number, and in the days of its prosperity had the satisfaction of knowing there was a nurse in every district, when the old boundaries prevailed. Now there

were four districts in which they had no nurses; and no money to pay them with if they had the nurses. The society did not know what to do, but if it did not receive some fat donations it was in danger of having to close down. Perhaps the city would then realise the value of these nurses. The outlook was exceedingly black."

This appears a grave reflection on the generosity of a city so wealthy as Birmingham, and surely the industrial classes, now so highly paid, should hand a bit on, in support of work so excellent. The good district nurse is a pearl of great price.

The late Mr. Nathaniel P. Blaker, of Chertton, Sussex, bequeathed an annuity of £300 to his nurse, Miss Ethel Caroline Parker, "who has nursed me with the greatest care, and I attribute my recovery in no small degree to her great care and attention."

There is sure to be a big muster of nurses trained at the Hendon Infirmary (now the Colindale Hospital) on July 2nd, for the unveiling in the Nurses' Home of the Memorial to members of the nursing staff. This unveiling ceremony is to be followed by tea, and then the League Meeting is to be held. It will be a very special meeting, for it was originally convened for the end of March, and was postponed on account of the very serious illness of its much-loved President, Miss Elma Smith, who is now, happily, on the high road to recovery.

PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES, GLASGOW.

The first Quarterly Meeting of members of the above Union was held on Friday, June 18th.

By request the members agreed to open the first part of the meeting to nurses interested in the activities of the Union, in order to give non-members an opportunity of getting information and joining in discussion. The Secretary gave a short address, and drew attention to the work the Union was undertaking, and the progress already achieved in various directions. The discussion which followed shows that nurses are taking an energetic interest in their own affairs. The Chairman then asked non-members to retire, all of whom applied to join the Union before leaving. The Secretary then read the quarterly report and the members expressed their satisfaction with the progress that had been made in the short time. The membership is increasing every week.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)