

the women did not go out so much to work, and did more house work.

"District nurses had also to walk, so did not attend to so many cases. The result of the work of the nurses in past years is now being shown. The people, being better educated, are much quicker in understanding what to do, in the nurse's absence, with their sick, and follow out the nurse's instructions most carefully." Miss Marsters continued:

"Branches of work undertaken by the district nurse now are school nursing, including work in treatment centres, tuberculosis nursing, infant welfare work, health visiting, &c. Midwifery and maternity nursing are also undertaken, though not as a rule by the general nurse. In some single districts she combines the two, but this is not desirable, and I hope will soon be discontinued. A great deal of acute work is undertaken, specially in the time of epidemics; operations are attended when the room has to be cleared, cleaned, and made as aseptic as possible under the circumstances, and it is quite marvellous how well these cases do in their own surroundings.

"The housing scheme now in operation in many areas will make a vast improvement in the health of the people, and help to decrease the overcrowding which now exists, also the constant inspection from some authority or other is making itself felt."

Miss Marsters emphasised the importance of the district nurse, in addition to nursing the sick person, making note of the conditions as a whole, of the surroundings of the patient, seeing that the rooms are in good order, whether the income is sufficient for the size of the family, what the sleeping arrangements are, whether the children are well or poorly nourished, and the most likely reasons for the latter conditions, and must know to what agencies cases should be referred to.

She spoke of the danger of overlapping in work of visiting and relief agencies, and the need for their representation on a central organisation. She also expressed the view that six months is not long enough in which to train nurses in the special things that it is essential, in these days, for a good district nurse to know.

She impressed upon the Matrons present that the best type of nurse is needed for district work, not the one who has been somewhat of a failure in her hospital career. She must be a woman with some personality, with a broad outlook on things in general, practical and very conscientious, and thus able to win the confidence both of her patients and their friends, and must possess a real love of the work. It is indeed a vocation, and demands the very best of any woman who undertakes it. She also emphasised the necessity for the Superintendent of a District Nursing Association to have a practical knowledge of the work of the various health agencies in her area, where possible serving on their committees, and said:

"In conclusion I have great hopes with such a strong and efficient General Nursing Council

that the curriculum for the training of the nurses in the future will embrace all branches of nursing, so that when a nurse passes her final examination she will be a fully qualified nurse in every sense of the word."

An interesting discussion arose out of questions addressed to Miss Marsters, especially in regard to the future relations of private nurses and visiting nurses, which we hope to report in our next issue.

At the conclusion of the meeting the members, on the invitation of Miss Marsters, adjourned to the dining-room for tea—a tea at which everyone was seated at the great black oak table polished until it shone like a mirror, and on which were a generous assortment of daintily-cut sandwiches, and a variety of cakes. Many willing hands kept tea-cups well filled with tea, hot and delicious.

Tea disposed of, most of those present availed themselves of the opportunity to see the Home, which has already been described in this Journal, and greatly admired the results of Miss Marsters' organising powers. It is, indeed, distinctive of the work of the Q.V.J.I. that there should be refinement combined with frugality, the provision of everything that is requisite, without waste. The many devices for lightening labour, and keeping expenditure down to the necessary minimum, are due to the personal interest and pains taken by Miss Marsters in every detail of the arrangements and furnishing. The anthracite stoves in the nurses' sitting-room and dining-room, decided upon after an exhaustive study of heating methods of various kinds, were pronounced to be most satisfactory both as to heat-giving powers, economy, and labour saving. They are fed only twice in the 24 hours.

Miss Marsters was warmly thanked for her hospitality and for arranging such a pleasant afternoon.
M. B.

THE "TRUBY KING" SYSTEM.

At a meeting of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, the President reported that a meeting had been held at the Town Hall, Melbourne, to consider the best means of establishing the "Truby King" system of saving infant life, and it had been agreed that this system should be established; and that the R.V.T.N.A. should be requested to send delegates to future meetings.

As skilled nurses are the chief instruments in the practical application of the "Truby King" system, those who hope to promote it are wise in securing the help and sympathy of the trained nurses' national organisations.

The goal of the Mothercraft Training Centre at 29, Trebovir Road, Earl's Court, is to teach every mother who seeks its advice; to restore to health every ailing baby who comes to its doors.

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