

ignorance is responsible for more unhappiness in this world than can possibly be estimated by self-sufficient, well-meaning meddlers.

The whole nursing world is suffering from lack of self-reliance and stability, as the result of patriarchal interference upon the part of reactionary men and women who will continue to feed it from a pap-boat.

Members of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society are to be congratulated that their Committee has decided that their surplus funds shall be distributed in the form of additional benefit, instead of in subsidising other societies or institutions. The full sickness benefit to which members coming under the present valuation are now entitled is 14s. 6d. weekly. This is an instance of the advantage of the management of the affairs of a Nurses' Friendly Society by a professional Committee, which realises what will be of most benefit to the members. The arrangement, which has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health, has given much satisfaction to the members of the T.W.N.F.S.

The letter of the Rev. William Galpin, to which we alluded last week, aroused interest in several papers concerning the reasons for the shortage of probationers; the statement that "after a few months nurses are mostly flung back broken in spirit and nearly always in body, with ankles and legs marred for life," sounds somewhat exaggerated, but if all feet, "ankles and legs" were carefully inspected before a girl was admitted for training, and again after a trial period, it would in some measure prove the strain to which the worker had been subjected. Also probationers should be instructed as to footwear, as the right type of shoe—which should support the instep—saves many a breakdown. The habit of gripping polished floors in high-heeled shoes is a sure incentive to varicose veins, to say nothing of the annoyance of the never-ceasing noisy tapping to and fro to sick people.

On the question of "Women Fighting Shy of Nursing" Catherine C. Osler writes:—"This 'serious outlook for hospitals' is the nemesis for the shameful exploitation of women's noblest impulse to service, which, despite continual exposure and protest, has continued unrelieved for years. Some of us hope that this is not the only 'serious outlook' which will make itself apparent in connection with the after-war reaction against justice and fair play to women which is being sorely felt."

We are still of opinion that the "eternal pettifog"—that is, the interference with the personal rights of nurses inside and outside hospitals by their employers—is a tremendous factor in the shortage of applicants. It is high time that probationers, like puppies, should teach themselves to swim.

Another correspondent writes:—

"In the last two numbers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING you have commented on the difficulty of obtaining recruits for the Nursing Profession. Surely the enclosed advertisements speak for themselves. Very few women would spend four or more years in arduous training for a reward of £160 per annum, if without any training at all they can earn £150! Strange, also, to relate, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and several members of the Health Committee who advertised are medical men. Their idea of what the training of a hospital nurse entails must, indeed, be a strange one."

Of the two advertisements enclosed, one is for a Health Visitor, for which a County Borough requires that the candidates shall have received three years' hospital training, hold the certificate of the Central Midwives Board and that of the Sanitary Institute. Salary £160.

The second advertisement, from the Education Committee in the same town, requires applications for a Lady Attendance Officer in the School Attendance Department. These persons "must possess a good address and personality and a fairly good education." No training of any sort is required. Uniform and salary of £150 per annum is offered. This, from an Education Committee, adds insult to injury. Such advertisements are quite of an ordinary nature. We are constantly hearing of untrained, unqualified women being thrust into positions of responsibility; and what makes these jobs the more intolerable is that it is done at the public's expense. We "Registered Nurses" are taxed to undercut our own professional standards. One more item of evidence of the ignorance and contempt of the average citizen—from highest to lowest—for professional nursing. No wonder educated girls fight shy of it.

The addition of orange-juice to the diet of hand-fed infants is one which has the approval of the Ministry of Health, as a preventative of rickets. A substitute is the juice of Swedish turnips if fruit juice is not available.

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