

agree that it is entirely insufficient, and that local authorities who wish to attract the best type of nurse must offer a more adequate salary.

The Misses Macaulay, who are opening the Springfield Nursing Home at Whitstable, Kent, for medical, surgical, and convalescent patients, could scarcely have selected a locality more likely to aid medical and nursing care. The invigorating breezes do wonders for tired and sick people in a few days, and convalescents will find much to interest them in the neighbourhood. In addition to the charm of the sea, it may be noted that Canterbury is within an easy tram ride, and the city, which is the seat of the See of St. Augustine, has innumerable attractions for the Churchman and the antiquarian, while its "antique" shops prove an irresistible magnet to those whose tastes lie in that direction.

We have pleasure, at the request of Miss A. M. Filley, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Greenock, of notifying to nurses trained in that institution that they can have their badges on making application to her. The cost of the badge is 3s. 6d.

The Report of Mrs. J. C. Hannington, Chief Superintendent of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, to Her Excellency the President, gives in comprehensive form massed statistics concerning the work of the Order during its 25 years' existence. "These do not, however, give the completed story, and they were collected with the greatest difficulty from a number of sources. Such a thing as a Central Administrative Office, executive secretary, filing clerk and stenographers, vital statistics, publicity material, lending library, and affiliations with leading universities for the supervised field work for their students, were not dreamed of by the Founders, but are to-day an important feature of the work. In fact, they are the Centre from which the life of the Order circulates, and it is the maintenance of this centre which is causing the concern of the Board of Governors."

Mrs. Hannington writes further:—"The tremendous organisation and expansion under my predecessor will probably never be equalled or recorded by any subsequent Superintendent, but the responsibility for the superstructure on these strong foundations will pass from one incumbent of the office to another. . . ."

"I am not, however, satisfied with the service we are giving. Your Chief Superintendent is away too much, which results in

important work connected with the nursing service becoming congested, and local associations are quite justified in their complaints of the lack of prompt attention to their demands.

"The improving and standardising of the nursing service of all branches is a never-ending and wholly absorbing occupation for our executive nurses. In this work we have always had the sympathetic co-operation and support of the local associations, and in this improvement is the very soul of our Order, not that we are changing our methods, but are having more time to develop them according to the individual needs of the communities. The motor-car is the greatest blessing for the district nurse, saving time and energy for the work, leading to economy and efficiency of effort. Here again we owe thanks to local generosity.

"To secure a sufficient number of suitable women for our work requires our constant attention. We must have women of good education, graduates of a standard training school, and with public health training or experience. We gave this formerly in our own training centres, which training we discontinued, and during the past year have been experimenting with a scholarship system in connection with the various Canadian universities giving post-graduate courses in public health.

"The increase in the school work is due to the fact that many people feel this work can be done more economically by this Order, others preferring our nurses because we are already familiar with their living conditions, and in this way another personality is not introduced into the home, with a certain authority to investigate their conditions. Our people still retain the tradition that 'an Englishman's home is his castle.' As one rather exasperated woman exclaimed after being called upon by representatives of different organisations: 'You see, Miss, if I have to entertain three young ladies in a morning, I have no time to cook my man's dinner.'"

It is interesting to note in the annual report of the Registrar-General for 1920, just published, that the marriage rate was the highest ever recorded, more births were registered than in any year since civil registration was inaugurated, and the death rate, including the infant mortality rate, was the lowest. But we must remember that quality is of greater importance even than quantity, and on this point statistics are not informative.

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