

heard of. It travelled with me to every case and never failed me.

Concerning the work in Hospitals, I have gathered some information that may be of use to intending travellers. My only direct experience of an American hospital was as a patient and not as a nurse. All hospital patients, except those of the pauper class, pay, and pay highly. The least expensive beds are in the public wards, then come semi-private beds—four or six in a room—and finally private rooms. In the latter two classes, it is very usual for the relatives of acute cases to employ two "special nurses." They are obtained by the hospital and look after the individual patient in the same way as in a private house. These "specials" do a 12-hour day and are paid 6 dols. (£1 10s.) a day by the patient, who also pays about 1.50 dol. (7s. 6d.) a day to the hospital for her meals. They go home to sleep at night and work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The regular hospital staff also work from 7 to 7, but with the important difference that they are allowed sufficient off-duty time to make up a 56-hour week. On each floor is the "floor Nurse," who seems to hold a position equivalent to that of a hospital Sister in England. They are paid 80 dols. to 100 dols. a month (£20-£25). They are accommodated by the hospital and so have no living expenses.

The particulars are taken from the Brooklyn Hospital, but I find they are approximate for other large hospitals.

Under the floor nurses are the nurses in training. Those I met seemed to be excellently fed and to have abundant social life in the evenings. All hospitals seem to be suffering from shortage of staff and I do not think that any English nurse need seek far in New York for an institutional position. That she would have to adapt her ideas as to hospital discipline very considerably is undoubted. Our training is longer and seemingly more detailed and thorough, and possibly our probationers are prepared to do more work and under stricter discipline whilst they are training. Of the higher administrative posts in New York hospitals, I have no knowledge.

I must add a word as to State Registration. All trained nurses practising in New York must obtain a Registration Card from the New York State Department of Health, Albany, and must be prepared to produce it at any moment. No position could be obtained without it, a Hospital certificate not being accepted in its stead. There seems to be little difficulty in obtaining it with the proper credentials, but nurses from smaller training schools would be well advised to find out before going to New York whether their certificate will entitle them to their Registration card. Returning to the question of hospital appointments, it is illegal in American law to make any contract of employment with any worker in another country, so that it excludes the chance to get your job first and then set sail. You would not be admitted to the country, for the Customs official who comes aboard at Ellis Island questions all passengers closely as to

their intended movements and is quite equal to sending you back home should you not answer his questions satisfactorily.

If you have your State Registration Card, and feel equal to the strain of further training, there is a splendid field for anæsthetics. America has completely accepted the nurse anæsthetist. She is in every hospital and some eminent surgeons employ their own anæsthetist. The training takes one year, I think.

The Public Health service also has many openings. As far as I could discover it was not nearly as well paid as private nursing, but has the advantage of an 8-hour day and a regular salary. School nurses work in all the Public schools, and in cleansing stations and clinics for school children. The New York State Department of Health has a splendidly broad conception of its functions. Every marriage which is advertised in the newspapers brings a response from Albany. A week or so later, the newly-married woman receives a booklet entitled "Suggestions for Prospective Mothers." It is full of wisdom and kindly common sense, and gives every detail as to habits of life for the woman should she become a prospective mother, and also full details as to preparations for confinement, clothing for the baby, &c. There is also a chapter devoted to the prospective father. In the front of it is a list of booklets obtainable gratis dealing with child welfare. They are printed in English, Italian, Polish and Slovak, so that nearly all New York mothers are provided for. The Venereal Diseases Bureau also has a list of gratis publications written in very simple language. The care of the Public Health Department does not stop at the care of prospective mothers. I have here a splendid pamphlet on maternity care and a small folder for the New Born Baby. In the full set every aspect of child rearing is touched upon. . . .

Another good prospect of work for the enterprising nurse lies in a 12 months' course at Columbia University as Oral Hygienist. After training, the oral hygienist can either work as a dentist's assistant or, I believe, a few are working independently. They undertake such minor dental operations as scaling teeth, &c. Those to whom I spoke on the subject agreed that in time a large demand will arise for these oral hygienists. At present it is in the nature of pioneer work.

I feel that before I close I must make some mention of the climate of New York. Work in the city in the hottest two months is almost unbearable, and to one unaccustomed to it would prove almost impossible. Few better class private families remain in town. Everyone goes either to the mountains or the sea coast, whither the husbands join them at week-ends. Even poor class families fly from the terrible heat of the shadeless city, so that inevitably work is at a minimum. There are various alternatives. One is to go to a mountain or seaside resort and join a registry there temporarily. I solved the difficulty the first year by driving a car at Glen Cove, Long Island, a delightfully cool place surrounded

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