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To those with the right vocation and temperament, the opportunity offers a satisfying and most useful career.

We wonder if the Report of the Rockefeller Foundation on the Shortage of Nurses will result in a better supply. Here in England the shortage of probationers at the London Hospital, and in other first-class Training Schools, is still acute, and there is one reason for this we seldom hear advanced. What are a largely increased supply of nurses to do when they are trained? Naturally, certificated nurses desire to rise in their profession, and where are the independent positions for them? Certainly not in the private nursing world, which in times past provided an outlet for women who enjoyed individual private practice. There are many reasons for this. The increased cost to the patient, the decreased spending power of the patient, paying hospital wards, hospital private nursing staffs, the high cost of living between cases, and the ubiquitous V.A.D. For economic reasons a very high percentage of probationers are employed in training schools in comparison with trained staff nurses, and thus there is a constant exodus of young nurses, who find difficulty in finding promotion. Sisterships and Matronships are rare. It is the same in the Dominions. Not enough well-paid practice for thoroughly trained nurses. This makes girls shy of training. Public Health Work should absorb a large number of Registered Nurses in the future, but competition with semi-trained Health Visitors and other workers is far from encouraging at present.

Mr. E. W. Morris, House Governor of the London Hospital, has expressed the opinion in the press that "farmers' daughters and those of country solicitors make the best nurses," and he added that:—

"Hospital work is gravely hindered by the shortage of nurses. As a result there are 108 beds in the hospital closed, not from financial difficulties, but simply because of this lack of nurses. The shortage makes the remaining nurses' work harder, which, in turn, makes the profession less attractive.

"We are suffering from the fact that the modern educated woman who would formerly have taken up nursing now prefers the new professions that are opened up to her. She also prefers open-air work, such as chicken farming."

The "modern educated woman" has enjoyed more freedom than is possible under hospital routine, and alas! the beautiful old altruistic spirit is a vanishing quantity!

We have referred editorially on page 369 to the housing scandal as the foundation of many national evils, that of overcrowding being exemplified in the case of the death of an infant at Kingston-on-Thames, concerning which Dr. Goffe spoke out with no uncertain voice.

He testified that the cause of the baby's death was syncope from broncho-pneumonia, and in reply to the Coroner (Dr. M. H. Taylor) said it was decidedly not healthy for people to have to live under such conditions as were described by the parents. It was extremely unhealthy and undesirable. As a medical practitioner in the Borough he thought the conditions under which the poorer people lived were scandalous and appalling. They were living in unhealthy conditions, not from choice, but because they were forced to do so. He felt very strongly on the point, and sometimes wondered the people did not create a commotion. He was surprised at the tranquillity they exhibited under stress of circumstances, and wondered that any Borough Councillor had a window pane left in his house, considering they had power to build houses, as had been done by the local authorities at Surbiton, Malden, and Richmond. They bought land in the town, but, despite the moral obligation on them, they had only built twelve houses. As a ratepayer, he was prepared to pay higher rates so that the people might have houses. The electors had it in their own hands, and should inquire from every candidate for the Council whether he was in favour of building houses quickly, and unless they got a definite and favourable answer should not vote for him. . . . The Government wanted to keep up the population, but the landlords said "No encumbrances." In recording a verdict of "Death from natural causes," the Coroner remarked that he agreed with all that Dr. Goffe had said.

Sir Henry Cook, chairman of the Board of Management, who presided at the annual meeting of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Incurables, which was held in the Longmore Hospital, intimated that, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the managers would shortly be in the position still further to improve the accommodation for the nurses at Longmore Hospital. Plans had now been

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