

The washing of whole families of children whilst the mother lay ill; washing up dishes; advice on cooking and even on moral subjects were tasks freely performed in addition to the nursing. At the end of a day such as this the nurse would come home to provide a splendid meal for us, to be disturbed only too often by the creaking of the garden gate—the ominous sound of another “call.” The hard-worn bicycle would then be brought out and the nurse would disappear into the possibly frosty night, to be seen by us no more until her cheerful face presided over the coffee pot at breakfast. Truly a wonderful service equalled only by those splendid women in the field, where indeed many a district nurse has already played a valorous part.

We wonder that any one can enumerate these duties without the deepest condemnation. What kind of nurse would combine the work of lodging-house keeper, district nurse, midwife, domestic worker, with those of a mother? It should be required of no woman.

The one blot on the escutcheon of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute is that it sanctions the employment of Certified Midwives, with a few months' insight into general nursing, not necessarily in hospital, as Village Nurses.

We hope that henceforth, now that the Memorial to Queen Alexandra is receiving so much support, the Institute will require that all nurses who work under its honourable title shall be fully-trained Queen's Nurses.

It is interesting to learn that the Dungannon Guardians consider that they ought to pay the taxed costs of a nurse (Nurse Elizabeth Walsh) incurred by her in defending two Actions brought against her in the High Courts, by infirmity nurses and wardmaids. The Actions resulted from the answers she gave to questions put to her by a Committee of the Board, a member of which pointed out the unfairness of expecting her to pay these costs, which would amount to her salary for two years, when her statements had been proved correct. If the Guardians can legally defray the nurse's costs they propose, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs, to do so.

An elementary knowledge of the Chemistry of Food and of Sick Room Cookery is very essential for all nurses, who will welcome a book on these subjects by Miss Dorothy K. Graham, F.B.C.N., S.R.N., an Examiner for the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and is prepared strictly in accordance with its Syllabus. In her preface the author hopes that these chapters on “Food” may prove thoroughly useful, not only to Nurses for their State Examination, but to Tutors and others who may wish to refer to a book for reliable, practical information. We hope to review it in a future issue.

Dr. Anna Hamilton, Directrice of the *École Florence Nightingale* at Bordeaux, sends us a very kind letter. “I cannot tell you how glad I am at the wonderful news of the splendid donation—and yet it does seem quite the right thing to happen after all your long and difficult fight for Nurses. But it does not happen that such right things do happen. You must be very happy planning for the establishment of the College.” Indeed we are.

Of her own wonderful work for nursing education in France, Dr. Hamilton tells us:—

“You will no doubt be pleased to hear that our new

hospital has now the first block finished, and the next two ready for the roofs. We have so many pupils that we have taken ten rooms for them in the new hospital our home being too small to house them all.

Our pupils have been very successful at the State Examinations this summer, we prepare them for the three State Diplomas. We have such a variety of work in our hospital—maternity, out patient department, and school visiting, nursing in the homes—that the nurses need not go into other institutions for their experience. Our Preliminary Course has been much developed and given very satisfactory results. . . .

Everything is getting more and more expensive and to help the hospital the Nursing Staff and pupils have given a fête for buying furniture for the hospital and got ten thousand francs. It was such a success they are preparing another.

Each nurse is trying to get ten prizes for the lottery from her friends. As our pupils come from all over France, they only sell tickets in this town for the lottery, for the theatricals and music. They do everything themselves, concert and play, tableaux vivants, &c. We have a real little theatre in the Home, so that it is all very convenient. Everybody is surprised that our nurses are able to do it all alone, but they are very well educated girls and have such taste for organising everything.”

During the war we paid our most recent visit to Bordeaux. The pupils gave us a most charming soirée. There appeared nothing they could not do—make lovely music, sing, recite; as for the most dainty refreshment, it was a dream. We like that idea of a theatre in the Nursing Home. The R.B.N.A. have set a good example in organising a Dramatic Section, and have discovered much talent amongst its members. The Benevolent and Social Committee of the Nurses' College of which Miss Isabel Macdonald is Chairman, will we feel sure encourage such relaxation amongst the members when in the near future it is suitably housed.

Dame Maud MacCarthy, R.R.C., is making a triumphant tour in Canada. She attended the Biennial Convention of the Canadian Nurses' Association and the unveiling of Canada's Nurses' Memorial to their Sisters who gave their lives in the Great War, and has been warmly welcomed by her colleagues in the big cities which she has visited. We hope Dame Maud will realise that the basis upon which the Canadian Nurses have built up their fine National Association is that of self-government—as we note in her interviews with the Press she omits any reference to the demand for self-government by nurses in Great Britain, and never alluded to the magnificent gift given to us for that purpose. The College of Nursing, Ltd., and the Cowdray Club in London—upon which alone Dame Maud MacCarthy showers encomiums in Canada—are not professional institutions and cannot, therefore, fulfil the aspirations of professional women who desire to exercise their reasoning faculties concerning their own affairs, as their colleagues in Canada and the United States do. No doubt Dame Maud MacCarthy will appreciate these truths after coming into close personal touch with systems of nursing organisations in less reactionary countries than Britain.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)