

proved upon, as it would be likely to be jealously regarded by Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. I would, therefore, suggest that it be called the Sisterhood of the White Cross. In the centre of the cross might be worked some suitable initials or some distinctive device. It would be necessary that each Nurse should be certificated, showing that she possessed a knowledge of economic cookery, the nutritive value of different kinds of food, the fundamental laws of health, and an elementary knowledge of sanitation.

THE PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

Each Metropolitan District, the largest of which comprises a population of upwards of 300,000 inhabitants, is divided into a number of sub-districts or wards. Each Lady Superintendent and her Staff should have residence in a central position in each sub-district, and their duties should be so defined that while being in touch with the Sanitary Authority and Board of Guardians, they should not clash with those of their officers.

I propose that each Lady Superintendent should be provided with a list of all those who from time to time are in receipt, or have received pauper relief, constituting them paupers; as also a list of those who may be sick and under the treatment of the Poor Law Medical Officer.

The number of Sisters apportioned to each district should be such as to ensure a house-to-house visitation once a week among the very poor. The Sisterhood should be composed of educated women qualified as Nurses, and possessing the additional qualification before enumerated, and their functions should consist in superintending, rather than actually engage in the work.

The following is an outline of the nature of the duties which I would have them discharge:—

(1) To superintend the nursing of the sick poor, one Sister in each Ward being specially appointed for infectious cases.

(2) To make a complete house-to-house visitation among the very poor weekly.

(3) To report to the Relieving Officer the case of any pauper requiring food and covering, and in any urgent case of sickness not admitting of this delay, the Lady Superintendent be authorised by the Guardians to supply any nourishment that may be deemed necessary.

(4) To report to the Sanitary Authority any insanitary dwelling, especially having regard to cleanliness and ventilation.

(5) To act in unison with all officers and servants of existing charities, regardless of sect or creed.

(6) To superintend the distribution of clothing, coals, &c., among the poor, and to report to the proper quarter by whom such were urgently needed.

(7) To make night sorties under the protection of the police in search of the homeless and shelterless.

(8) That it should be part of the duty of the one told off for infectious cases to superintend the disinfecting cleansing of all dirty wearing apparel, or any other washable article, whether worn by the patient or not—this being a source of danger altogether overlooked.

The foregoing are some of the more important duties; but others may suggest themselves as circumstances arise.

The great benefits accruing from an organisation, as depicted above, would be:—

The sanitary department would receive most efficient supplementary aid, the work of the over-taxed Relieving Officer would be lightened, endless lives would be saved, the hungry satisfied, and light and warmth and vitality would be shed, where all now is dark and dreary under a spasmodic and defective administration. With all our splendid Charities and Christian benevolence, it is the want of system, not the means, which has failed to prevent so much mortality and starvation in our midst.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ARCHER FARR, D.P.H.,
Late Medical Officer of Health, Lambeth.

Replies to Correspondents.

Ambition.—Very few Matrons' salaries exceed £100 per annum. The Matrons of St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, and King's College Hospitals receive £200 per annum. The Matron of the London Hospital receives the enormous salary of £350, with everything, even washing, provided.

Miss Greythorpe.—Look carefully through the regulations, and ascertain whether the Matron has absolute power, or, in other words, can discharge the members of the Nursing Staff as if they were domestic servants. Enter no Hospital where this regulation is in force, as you may be sure that if the Committee shirk their responsibility in one way, you will find other causes for complaint. Nurses as Pupils should be under the protection of the Committee.

Nurse Adelaide Snow.—We should advise you to gain a Certificate of three years' training. Try St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, or the Royal Free; the competition is now so keen that thorough knowledge is necessary; the public are demanding that when they need a Trained Nurse, they shall obtain one.

Nurse Jenkins (Croydon).—We strongly approve of co-operation, and were the first to denounce Nurse sweating. Join no Institution where you do not take your own earnings, and pay a percentage if necessary for office expenses. In a few years Private Nursing will be chiefly undertaken on these terms, as the work is arduous, and it is necessary Nurses should save, as they are unable, as a rule, to work efficiently for long after fifty.

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