

charter as being "generally the promotion and provision of improved means for nursing the sick poor." It is manifest that the extension of this national work must depend upon the formation of local institutions, and the maintenance of them when once started must be the result of the charitable effort of those who live in the neighbourhood.

The council of the Queen's Institute will readily co-operate with those who desire to form such Nursing Associations, whether in the country or in towns, but the interest of the fund at their disposal will only suffice for such purposes as fall within their province as a governing body.

By the generous gifts of £5,000 from Mr. Tate and £1,000 from Mr. Rathbone, M.P., the council are enabled to extend their immediate efforts to assist in the formation of new Nursing Associations already in existence, provided that they are able to adopt the conditions which they have laid down. Speaking generally, those conditions are:—1. That Nurses shall have had at least one year's training in an approved general hospital or infirmary. 2. That they should have approved training in District Nursing for not less than six months, including maternity nursing. 3. That Nurses in country districts must have at least three months' training in midwifery.

The council are of opinion that the advantages of affiliation will be:—1. To bring associations into connection with the institute which bears her Majesty's name. 2. To assist in raising the standard of thoroughly trained Nurses for the poor. 3. To entitle affiliated associations to such aid as the council may be able to give. 4. To entitle Nurses attached to affiliated institutions who satisfactorily fulfil the conditions of thorough training, efficient work, and unexceptionable conduct, to have their names submitted to her Majesty to be placed on the roll of Queen's Nurses.

The council do not desire to interfere with the management of any existing Association, but only to satisfy themselves that the work of training Nurses which is being carried on is of such a character and standard as will admit of its being affiliated to the Queen's Institute if it be so desired.

A work of this magnitude can only become fully established gradually; but the measure of success which has been attained up to this time encourages the council to hope that so valuable an institution will be acknowledged by the public as one which promises to confer lasting benefits in many ways upon the poor in the land, and which should be made worthy of the circumstances connected with its foundation.

ERRATA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Whilst thanking you very warmly for the space you have so courteously placed at my disposal, may I ask for space to correct three typographical errors which appear to have inadvertently crept into Letter IV., published in your issue of July 10, and which somewhat alters the meaning in each case?

The word "equally," contained in line six from the beginning of the letter, should read "usually;" the word "golden," in the fourth line of "Sons of Labour," given on page 24, should read "olden;" and the word "words," to be found in the top line of column two, on the same page, should read "world's."—Yours faithfully, THEODORA.

WANTED, DISTRICT PHILANTHROPISTS, OR REAL LIVE "MISSIONARIES OF HEALTH."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—It is related that a famous sculptor once showed a visitor the treasures of his studio. In it were many mythical gods. One particularly attracted the visitor's attention. The face was concealed by being covered with hair, and there were wings to each foot. "What is his name?" said the

spectator. "Opportunity," was the reply. "Why is his face hidden?" "Because men seldom know him when he comes to them." "Why has he wings upon his feet?" "Because he is soon gone, and once gone he cannot be overtaken."

Although it is now generally conceded that a better class of District Nurses are needed than formerly, I find, to my supreme amazement, that many District Nursing committees remain still in blissful ignorance concerning what *is* and what is *not* suitable and congenial to the aforesaid Nurse's individual tastes, growth and home life, especially in *solitary* districts.

But, then, "We are not responsible in such a case," they say. Besides, there are plenty of Nurses now to be had. Thus it comes to pass that the "reins of management" in those districts are, under this *regime*, tied securely round the old steed's neck; and the District Nurses are being conveyed hither and thither without either a leader or a driver. "A house divided against itself cannot stand" for ever. For it is to be feared that those committees are not leading the van, other than financially; the secretaries and Matrons cannot spare the time to do so, and the Nurses are left to sit quietly therein, unable to reach the reins, and so they must needs run the risk of being thrown out at any time. If they protest, then they are quietly told that they "know too much"; in other words, they can "see too far," I presume. And, in such a case, it is not difficult to see the reason why there is no growth in their ranks; that that magic word, "evolution," hath no charms for this oftentimes wearied and worn band of workers. In fact, Sir, I fancy that it cannot have yet occurred to those good committees of management that if a better class of Nurses *were* brought into the arena they would, in turn, naturally enough expect a better *home* life than the former or pioneer Nurses appear to have had. Those lackadaisical committees!

Moreover, I have noticed in my wanderings during the last twenty-five years that those Parish Nurses have, for obvious reasons, been turned out time after time to seek fresh lodgings; and, like so many peddlars, have been "driven from pillar to post," their goods and chattels with them. So much for the accommodation of the District Nursing pioneers. Certain it is that things ought not so to be. Those districts should be progressive, and, in order to facilitate this object, I would venture to suggest that the District Nurses should have a stationary home life of their own if they are to do work that will wash. Those Nurses should themselves be gradually and quietly cultivating their own talents, and their districts should be growing with them. "The way to progress is step by step." Then, again, their "working plans" should be matured and drafted at home, not on the streets; and no Nurse should be, in my opinion, admitted permanently to a district *under thirty-five years of age*. And I, for one, should like to see this matter earnestly taken up, either by the Nursing profession, the subscribers, or the lay public, or else by all three bodies in concert. Are not numbers of those districts languishing to-day through fear of man and sheer indifference?

I am pleased to learn from the signs of the times that, happily, the day is not far distant when neither religious sect nor political party will be acknowledged in the Nursing Sisterhoods. And to serve the sick poor acceptably, it does certainly seem desirable that the "Visiting" Nursing Sister should carefully conceal her own particular phase of belief; striving rather to allure her people's thoughts towards that wondrous personage—Jesus the Man. Happy is the Nurse who has learnt to "Count it gain her light should wane, so the whole world to Jesus throng." At the same time let her "push" nothing; watch for opportunities. *Be vigilant and of few words.* It is the life of Christ lived over again in this last decade of the nineteenth century that the world most needs. Indeed, Sir, as "The Yorkshireman" very pithily expresses it, we want "None of your painting and gilding; give us the real thing." Notwithstanding this, should the need

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