

scheme, which has been tried in several American cities with considerable success, is that of visiting nurses; the nurse is sent for when she is required, be it for a surgical operation, a confinement, or any other cause, and leaves the house as soon as her services can be dispensed with; afterwards she visits the patients once or twice daily to attend to them. Each visit is charged for at a definite rate and thus the nurse receives an adequate remuneration for her services and each individual patient obtains what attendance he needs at a comparatively low rate.

Another scheme, which it is proposed to introduce in Montreal, is that one of our hospitals should retain the services of three or four of its graduate nurses, giving them board and lodging within the hospital and paying them a yearly salary. The services of these nurses would then be available to any one who is unable to pay the full rate, for the hospital authorities, after due enquiry into the patient's financial ability, would let him have a nurse at a reduced rate. This scheme, while it evinces an honest desire to overcome what is admittedly a difficulty and a hardship, does not recommend itself to us, for the simple reason that it practically amounts to making those patients who avail themselves of this offer on the part of the hospital, recipients of charity. After carefully reading the letters which have appeared in the daily papers, we can only come to the conclusion that the amount received by the hospital from the patients in return for the services of the nurses will not be sufficient to defray the expenses thereof. This means a deficit and this deficit will have to be made good by the contributions of the charitably disposed. We cannot but think that the average man in receipt of a fair income would rather have a nurse for part of the time and pay for her, than have a nurse all the time and have somebody else bear part of the expense.

Still another scheme is to have two classes of nurses: a fully trained class as at present for those who can afford to pay the necessary fees, and a second class who have taken a shorter course and consequently, being less fully trained, will work for less money. Such an arrangement appears to be rather a dangerous experiment. Much time and labour have been expended in bringing trained nursing to its present high state of efficiency and this proposed scheme seems like a retrograde step and we greatly fear will prove to be such. To a large proportion of the laity a nurse is a nurse no matter how long or how short a time she has spent in acquiring her training, and the public mind would utterly fail in many instances to grasp the difference between the two classes of nurses. A short time ago, eighteen months was considered quite long enough for a nurse to