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No. 1

THE VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES.

There is no doubt that many families would be benefited by more experienced nursing. That often in cases of emergency the country practitioner would be pleased to have the assistance of a trained nurse. We will go further, and say that every case of sickness, occurring in any family, located anywhere in this broad land, from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific ocean, from the Niagara Falls to the settlements on the distant Peace, would be the better for and should have a trained nurse. Every physician in this district should likewise have one for an assistant.

Everyone admits the need of nursing. The question is first, what supply is there for the demand; and, secondly, in the event of the supply not being sufficient, by what means can it be best increased? The

nurses in this country may be divided into two classes, on a basis purely educational. First, those who have gone through a course of hospital training and received certificates. Enquiry among this class, previous to the late flurry, negatived the theory of lack of supply. The other class consists of maiden ladies, worthy widows, or older women, scattered all over the country, without hospital training, without knowledge of anatomy, physiology or chemistry, but the majority of whom have been trained at the bedside, by the good old country doctor, the friend as well as physician of his patient. Her knowledge has been acquired chiefly through long and patient watching with him over relatives and friends. She is of the class whom she nurses, and better understands their feelings and their