

Further, even in those towns and cities which are fortunate enough to have an hospital no poor patient who has a delicacy about going to a public institution for treatment need suffer for want of proper medical attendance. The medical practitioner who refuses to see a patient because he is poor is assuredly in this country a *rara avis*. We speak advisedly when we say that no other class of our people does as much work for charity's sake as do our medical confreres, and they do it, to their credit be it said, unostentatiously, without any assistance from the State or a philanthropic organization. For these reasons, therefore, we say that for our towns and cities the Victorian Order of Nurses is unnecessary.

How about the more sparsely settled districts of our vast country? Wherever the country is thickly enough settled to hold out a hope of a mere subsistence there you will find a doctor. Here, of course, the poor are less numerous, relatively, and the calls for charity upon the doctor necessarily less frequent but none the less cheerfully attended to. The country doctor is not behind his urban confrere in his willingness to relieve suffering under whatever circumstances it may be found. Many a long cold drive is endured, many an hour's sleep is lost by the country doctor for "sweet charity's sake" that the public never hear of. The McClures do not live in fiction alone. They are to be found in every corner of our fair country. Where the country doctor is available no necessity exists for the proposed Order of Nurses.

But it is urged there are many parts of Canada where the inhabitants are as much as thirty or forty miles from the nearest doctor. True.

Here, then, surely there is an opening for the trained nurse. Perhaps so, but we fail to see the practicability of the scheme, even for such districts. The nurse would not be more readily accessible than would the doctor. She could not be near each of these scattered homes. When her services would be required they would be as difficult to obtain as would those of the doctor. With all due respect, too, for the services of a nurse, and without unduly rating the abilities of the doctor, we are free to confess that his services would be more valuable than would those of the trained nurse. Why not, then, if funds are to be sub-