

their habitations. The district nurse changes all this. As far as possible, after she is called in, the sick-room assumes a different aspect; cleanliness takes the place of dirt; the atmosphere of disease is purified and changed, and many are the recoveries which can be traced mainly to her beneficent influence. The want of especial nursing is felt perhaps more terribly by poor than by rich patients, so few of the former class know even how to apply the simplest remedies, to prepare a poultice or to apply a fomentation; and it is with the hope of remedying this great deficiency, that the system of district nursing is being encouraged largely in London, and has already been most successful in Liverpool, Birmingham, and other large towns.

The nurses at present employed in London as workers amongst the poor are taken chiefly from the class that would otherwise become superior domestic servants. They are lodged and boarded in a district Home, of which it is contemplated to open three, as soon as possible, in different quarters of the metropolis. Two are already in full operation, containing six nurses each, who are lodged, fed, and superintended by a district lady manager. Every nurse is required to undergo one year's training in a hospital; and most of the large hospitals arrange to receive them. In the Nightingale training ward of St. Thomas' Hospital, the probationary nurses obtain a thorough professional education. As soon as the nurse has passed her hospital year, she is placed in one of the Homes of the association, and commences her practical duties as district nurse amongst the poor of the neighborhood, directed and assisted by the lady superintendent of her Home. The expenses of training are not great, and are within the means of all but the very poor. The hospital year costs the probationer thirty pounds for her maintenance during that time, payable in two instalments, fifteen pounds on entering, fifteen pounds at the expiration of six months. Immediately on being received into the Home, and commencing work amongst the poor, the nurse receives a salary,