

SOCIAL SERVICE AND HOSPITAL EFFICIENCY.

mind of any up-to-date doctor—but also that the time is now ripe to establish Social Service departments as integral parts of their institutions. If our Hospitals and Nursing Associations would take advantage of such post-graduate courses of lectures and practical field work as may be offered by University, Charity Organization Society and District Nursing Association, it would afford those of their nurses who have the spirit for Social Service an opportunity for fitting themselves for any public or institutional work they care to follow. It would soon provide the Hospitals with a staff of social workers already acquainted with the routine and administration of the Hospital. The advantage to the nurses in thus opening up to them new lines of work is evident.

With a 1912 record of 72,000 out-patient admissions, and 4,582 in the wards, the Montreal General Hospital offers a special opportunity for follow-up care. Situated as it is in the working heart of the city, its clientèle includes hundreds of people who are affected with the awful diseases of ignorance and poverty which the trained social worker is better fitted to cope with than the busy doctor. Can we not lend a hand to this most worthy cause of social service in the hospital and by supplying volunteer committees and funds under hospital direction help on the great work of cure and prevention which this institution has pledged itself to pursue?

Hospital Social Service, not then called by that name, started as long ago as 1791, in the London Hospital in Whitechapel Road. A nurse with three assistants has had charge of the work there for the last twelve or fourteen years. It was taken up in the Massachusetts General in 1905, with one worker at a desk in a corner of a corridor. There are now 22 workers, 24 volunteers, and 15 student volunteers in the wards and three clinics, and the sum of \$15,500 was last year expended on salaries, supplies and special purposes. Since then great interest in the subject has been created, and forty or fifty hospitals have established the service. Bellevue Hospital, New York, has now a staff of 35 workers in the wards, two clinics and offices, besides special