

THE PROFESSION OF NURSING.

For a number of years, even previous to the war, there has been difficulty in finding a sufficient number of trained nurses to care for sick people and fill the needs of the hospitals. The war, with its great demand for nurses for army work, has intensified this situation. During the epidemic of influenza it has proved impossible in many places to secure nurses for service in private families.

Nurses are well paid and the cost of their services is a heavy tax on working people. A family with several children liable to get sick any time, is a heavy expense if it is in the habit of calling in trained assistance in time of sickness. Yet good nursing is very vital in any cases at all critical. A large part of the deaths among the poor are due solely to lack of this attention.

It is an arduous profession, with long hours and broken sleep. There is also danger of infection in contagious cases.

Yet nurses are very well paid. Their work is such that they can usually take rest periods as they need them. The self-sacrifice of the nurse brings many unexpected rewards, many precious friendships and often results in happy marriages, considerations not to be ignored. The nurse has the pleasure of bringing sick people back to health and strength and it is a life that brings many satisfactions.

The calling demands women of physical vigor and nervous strength. For such it ought to be an attractive profession. It is a life of greater independence than that of the worker in a store or factory. The money rewards are certainly better. The community will always need more nurses for the requirements of peace times, as well as more for war. A girl can enter the profession with the feeling that her services will always be sought after.