

supervised. This is gained by sharing responsibility with them, thus recognizing the ability of the individuals under her supervision. You gain respect by giving respect. (f) The hospital needs it, for upon its graduates to a large degree depends its reputation and the upkeep of nurses. Having an interest in the plant holds their loyalty, and wherever a square deal is given, they are never afraid of recommending it to others. 2. RESULTS. (a) A more sympathetic feeling between supervisor and supervised. (The supervisor's work would not be half so hard, because of the better understanding between herself and the student body.) (b) There would be a greater degree of efficiency in work, because wherever a person is treated justly, he will work to the limit. (c) The students would be ready to take their places as leaders, having learned how to conduct meetings, mete out justice, and recognize the rights and opinions of others. One might become president of the United States. Who knows? (d) There would be more just rules, punishments, and fewer of them. (e) Wherever the spirit of democracy prevails, it cannot help but attract others. Truth, justice and mercy always win. (f) It should give to the individual a broader outlook on life, a personal interest in the welfare of others, and a more sympathetic attitude toward the world in general.

Ohio

BLANCHE A. WALTER.

THE SYSTEM OF HOURLY NURSING

Dear Editor: Your editorial in the February *Journal* in which you say that "The services of the trained women should be for the really sick, and her time should not be spent, as is often the case, in duties that belong properly to a lady's maid," moves me to expression on a matter that has long been in my mind, namely: the great waste of knowledge and skill involved when a nurse spends all of her time with one patient. There are, of course, many patients who require expert attention for the entire twenty-four hours of the day, but for one such, there are at least five who could get on very well with expert service for a few hours each day, and instruction of some member of the family or an attendant, in the necessary procedures for the welfare and comfort of the patient between the nurse's visits. If five patients could be cared for by one nurse, four other nurses would be set free to care for other patients who, under the present system, receive no expert care. With new fields of usefulness opening constantly to young women, the shortage of nurses is bound to continue, and instead of waiting for increased numbers, it would seem the part of wisdom to utilize to the fullest, the forces we have, and those to whom the call of our profession will be heard above all competing opportunities for service, and incidentally, for self-support. This plan of hourly nursing was tried by the Chicago Nurses' Directory during the influenza epidemic last winter, and gave nursing care to many patients who otherwise would have been unable to have it. I do not know whether this system has been continued. Those nurses who are interested largely in the financial returns from their work, would find that they, also, would be better off under the hourly, or part time, system; for with the hourly rate of two dollars for the first hour, and fifty cents for each additional hour or fraction thereof, a fairly good income should result without undue exertion. This plan would require an educational campaign to be carried on among the physicians, and the people, but we are getting accustomed to doing educational work, and this would be worth our best efforts if it would mean better care for more people.

Washington

HELEN W. KELLY.

SERVICE

Dear Editor: Can you imagine my consternation, rebellion and instinctive revolt when I read on the bulletin board one day that I was to have my charge