

A SCHOOL FOR COLORED NURSES

THE new colored woman has been found and her sphere established. The white woman found her own years ago, when athletics and the professions opened to her.

But the colored woman held back. None of these fitted her well.

Her sphere has been found now. It was discovered in her own part of the country, the South, where her ancestors lived. Her sphere is in a professional line, and if search had been made for it through the ages nothing so fit could have been found.

The new colored woman's sphere is

trip to the southern parts of Florida for an invalid, and see how the white nurse suffers. She is as sick as her patient the first few days, until she becomes acclimated. And the same with a trip to the Arctics, where patients are sent to shake off malaria. The nurse feels the cold, gets rheumatism, cannot eat the food and comes home used up.

The colored race are by nature acclimated. They shiver because brought up in hot climates. But give them warm clothes and they are none the worse. In hot countries they are absolutely at home.

HARDY NURSES.

Colored people not only suffer none from change of climate, but they are not troubled by change of food. They are a hardier race. Whether this may pass over in time with more culture is not known, but at present they have more endurance, are hardier, live long-



"IN A SICK ROOM THE COLORED NURSE BRINGS APPETITE, AND THE INVALID IS HAPPY"

in hospital work. She is a nurse. At a meeting of the New Orleans University Medical College some months ago it was decided that a training school for young colored women should be established. And lately the plans were drawn up for the school and the movement put well under way.

There are thousands of intelligent young colored girls who will want to become nurses in this New Orleans training school. They are the daughters of well-to-do parents and are intelligent to a high degree. In all kinds of handiwork they are apt and there is no branch of personal servitude they can not acquire. They are quick stepped, light-footed and models of sweetness and patience.

RICH COLORED GIRLS.

The question of the young colored woman has been bothering philosophers for the last five years. As the industries of the country grow people become richer and all nations share in the financial success. The class of wealthy colored people, men and women, has been increasing until there are now thousands of colored families that are, if not rich, at least comfortable. Their daughters, if they must work, are above common kitchen work; and yet there are not the industries open to them that there may some day be.

The profession of nursing comes in here and fills the void for the colored girl. Not to speak of the void in the hospitals and in families. It is the step above scrub work, yet below the "equal" feeling and footing.

In deciding to establish this school for colored girls the august body of physicians was not moved at all by sentiment, but by very practical motives. There were twenty good reasons set forth why the colored nurse would excel the white one, and arguments advanced won over every opposition, for opposition there is sure to be over every radical step.

One of the points advanced was that the colored race are harder. Take a

er and have fewer nerves. They do not suffer from neuralgia and headaches as others do. These are most valuable points for a nurse, who must be above all earthly ills while she is nursing.

Another point that indicated to the doctors of New Orleans that they were taking a step in the right direction was the cheapness at which these trained nurses will work. A city trained nurse gets from \$3 to \$6 a day. This means, for an illness of three weeks, from \$63 to \$126. This is paid out in cold cash to the trained nurse, and she will not come a peg without full assurance that she will get every cent of it. Doctors fight the price in vain. The trained nurse is scarce and she can command her price.

The trained colored nurse will set her scale of prices lower. Beginning at \$1.50 per day, it is the present intention of those interested in the school to raise very slowly to \$4. The highest price is paid to the nurses of very long experience, who come, at risk of their lives, to take care of malignant cases. But the nurse who is engaged for a gastritis, who sleeps all night, eats well and takes her exercise daily, will have to be contented with her board and \$10 or \$12 per week.

The fear entered the minds of the committee arranging the entrance examinations that the question of intellect might interfere with a profession so exacting in its knowledge as nursing. But this was found wholly without foundation. A colored girl whose parents read and write was found quite as intelligent as a white child whose parents are equally well educated. There was positively no difference in the scale of knowledge. So this question was set aside as unworthy.

In becoming a nurse the new colored woman is very proud and happy. She enters a much respected profession, which she is anxious to adorn, and no branch of which is beneath her.