

nigh upon us—the question that is now all-important for us as individual Nurses to put to ourselves is, not so much how can we increase the numbers of the one, or hasten on the fulfilment of the other? but rather, are we worthy members of the first? and are we ready, or shall we be ready, to undertake the responsibilities of the second? By ready, I do not now mean for the strict examinations in the theoretical or in the practical part of our calling—all that necessarily will be carefully looked after by the Council who will be appointed to Register, for on both these points we may be quite sure no one will be admitted who is not fully trained and fully competent—but I do mean, are we ready in that part of our training which cannot be tested by examination or proved by a Council, which rests entirely with each individual Nurse, namely, the moral and spiritual side of her character, without which no training for whatever calling can be considered complete?

It has been urged again and again of late that Nursing is not all sentiment, and should not be allowed to become so, but that it is rather real, practical, hard, scientific work. There is scarcely much need in this practical nineteenth century of urging this fact, or much danger of our wasting time and energy in sentiment only. There is far greater fear of the necessity for sentiment, love, and sympathy being lost sight of altogether in sheer practical hard work, and in the struggle for existence and for success.

It is, therefore, all-important for us to realize that the one is not complete without the other, and that in order to strive after our ideal we must keep both well in view—the sympathetic as well as the practical side of our training. What, then, should be the ideal for every Trained Nurse to strive after?

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has given us the answer in her admirable article on "The Development of the Art of Nursing," when she says—

"Her face is sweet with the impress of a pure and lofty nature, her hand is a support, her voice is melody. She stands before us, the full and perfect realisation of all that can be desired in womanhood, and therefore worthy of fulfilling those duties which call forth the highest attributes of which woman is possessed."

She must learn to realise fully that it is *not* enough for her to bring to her work merely keen theoretical knowledge and clever practical skill, important as these are; but that some great moral power, some deep spiritual truth, love, sympathy, and tenderness are equally necessary; and the Nurse will not be fully trained in the highest sense of the word—will not be worthy of her vocation—if she possesses the former, and has but a slight knowledge of the latter, qualifications.

The sooner we grasp the indisputable fact, that the body re-acts upon the mind, and the mind upon the body, the better will it be for the Nursing profession; for then we shall know that it is useless to attempt to relieve and care for the one, without bringing something at the same time to bear upon the other. We all must know by experience the vast difference there is between the purely scientific and skilful Doctor who cares for nothing outside his science and his skill, and the one who brings to the patient's bedside a ready sympathy, a heartfelt tenderness, and an intuitive insight into the sick man's feelings, and yet has no lack of science or of skill. It is very evident which of the two does most good amongst his patients, and which is really worthy of the profession to which he belongs. If this is so with the Doctor, who visits his patient once a day, it must be far more so with the Nurse, who is with him night and day, and to whom he looks for everything he needs, for his physical, his mental, and his spiritual comfort.

Nothing less than this will in the end be expected and looked for from all fully Trained Nurses, who have the advantage of refinement, culture, and self-development, which education and gentle birth have, or ought to have, given them; otherwise the question will surely be asked, In what way are they superior to the old kind-hearted, uneducated women of a few years ago, and what has the public gained by the social status of Nurses having been so immensely raised within the last ten years?

Let me give one instance that was brought to my notice a few months ago, where this question was practically asked, and with no happy result, but rather to the disadvantage of the Trained, refined, and educated Nurse *versus* the old-fashioned uneducated woman who simply tried to do her best.

A lady, living in a quiet country place, where lady Nurses were unknown except in books, was taken very seriously ill, and one of the daughters, more enterprising than the rest of the household, and wishing to have all the advantages of Trained and good Nursing, was bent upon sending for a Trained lady Nurse, instead of calling in the usual woman generally resorted to on such occasions. The Nurse was consequently sent for, and her arrival was awaited with much anxiety and interest; she came in full uniform, and was at once greeted with enthusiasm, the neighbours being almost ready to canonise this sweet, refined-looking lady on the spot, who had given her life to work for others, and to tend and care for the sick. But, alas! their enthusiasm met with a severe shock, for in less than a week this sweet-looking Nurse went to the daughter in question, and said, "I really

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