

not an *alla podrida* of Nursing, Medicine, and a dozen ologies. Only uneducated and ignorant Nurses desire to be considered semi-doctors, and there is not the slightest necessity for this journal to pander to their weakness in this direction, inasmuch as there are already several penny papers which profess to instruct the public once a week in all matters, Medical, scientific or sanitary. Trained Nurses are rising rapidly in popular esteem, but I am afraid there is one great danger which may arise from this very increase of popularity, that it may make some few of the lower class of Nurses lose their heads.

SUCH women will, in time, doubtless learn that those whose social position is established and sure need no self-assertion to obtain respect. They will learn that Nursing is now becoming recognised as one of the most noble occupations which a woman can undertake, and that a Nurse is merely degrading both herself and her art when she pretends to be anything more or anything less than a Nurse. It will take her all her time, strength, and energy to be a really good attendant upon the sick—a loyal and trustworthy assistant to the Medical man. If she is less than this she is utterly useless; if she pretends to be more, she only makes herself ridiculous, and brings her calling into disrepute with all sensible people. I am very glad to have the opportunity of saying this frankly and openly, because I hear on all sides of the disgrace the absurd pretensions of semi-trained Nurses is bringing upon the profession of Nursing.

A VERY sensible letter appeared in the *Standard* this week upon "Young Lady Nurses." The full truth and significance of the statements made by the writer, who signs himself "M.R.C.S." (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons) will be admitted by most Nurses. After noticing the great advantages to suffering patients and long-suffering doctors of a refined woman's ministrations instead of the services of the old-fashioned type of Nurse, he speaks of the great and growing popularity of the work, and adds the following much-needed words of warning.

"FROM a home of probably comparative ease, where their hardest day's physical labour is a morning spent in light house work, followed by an afternoon's lawn-tennis, or a country walk, these scarcely-formed, tender women enter upon the stern duties of a Nurse, which, in comparison, is veritable 'hard labour.' From eight a.m.—in some cases it is from seven a.m.—until eight p.m., or even later, with but short intervals for meals, they are 'on duty.' Do any of those who have

not tried it know what that 'on duty' means? I fear not. It is literally on foot for the whole time, with the addition of lifting patients, heavy with helplessness and pain, bending over beds, mounting stairs—in fact, everything tedious and toilsome. Such a change from the life that most of these girls have been accustomed to lead has, as a rule, but one ending, and that is a breakdown in health, resulting only too often in a certain deformity, incurable in itself, and a source of pain and misery—if nothing worse—for the remainder of life."

"MUCH has been done for Nursing by the sacrifices of noble women; but surely tender girls, wholly unaccustomed to such physical strain as that put upon them in our Hospital Wards, ought not to be allowed to blindly ruin themselves in health and happiness for the sake of 'something to do.' There was much stir made some years ago about the girls standing in our shops; there is more need now for a similar outcry against the strain upon our Nurses and Nurse Probationers. Girls brought up to domestic service can stand this strain, and make excellent Nurses; ladies, accustomed only to play at work, with an easy chair or a sofa to fall back upon when tired, simply ruin themselves, and bring trouble and misery upon their homes, and the homes of their husbands in the future."

I HEAR that Miss S. E. Vaux has been appointed Matron of the Birmingham and Midlands Eye Hospital. Miss Vaux was trained at the Middlesex Hospital, and has since, I believe, worked for some time in the same Institution. She is, I am told, possessed of considerable literary powers, and that Mr. Editor at the present time holds a valuable article from her pen, which he hopes to be able shortly to publish.

I AM indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Albert E. Boyce, the Secretary-Superintendent of the Royal United Hospital at Bath, for the information that the following ladies have been appointed at that Institution:—Miss A. N. S. Murray, who was trained at the General Hospital, Birmingham, has been made Head Nurse of the Male Surgical Ward; Miss S. Barlow, trained at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, Head Nurse of the Female Surgical Ward; Miss Athow, trained at the same Hospital, has been placed in charge of the Children's Wards. I am extremely sorry to hear that this great Charity is in sore financial straits, and that each year ends with a considerable deficit. Considering the wealth and public spirit for which Bath is famous, this state of affairs surely only requires to be adequately stated to be remedied for ever.

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