

the Obstetric art, but also with that of Nursing. We fully agree with the opinion he expresses upon the various Nursing questions to which he alludes, and now would chiefly endorse his views as to the training of Monthly Nurses. Dr. Cullingworth considers that before any woman undertakes this branch of work she should have had a thorough general training. His reasons for this belief are succinctly stated, and deserve fullest consideration. He writes:—"I believe it to be altogether a wrong system for women to be trained as Monthly Nurses, before they have undergone a training in general Nursing. It is reversing the natural order of things. Nature invariably proceeds from the simple to the complex—from the general to the special; and no education can be sound or successful that does not, in this respect, adopt Nature's methods. A Monthly Nurse, properly speaking, is a woman skilled in general Nursing, and something more—that is to say, besides having obtained the knowledge and skill that all Trained Nurses are supposed to possess, she has qualified herself, by special training and experience, for a distinct branch of Nursing. In the exercise of her special calling she will find herself continually called upon to perform the duties of an ordinary Nurse. She will have to wash and dress her patient, make her bed, administer food, medicine, and enemata, keep records of pulse and temperature, and so on. And besides all these, she will have duties to perform special to the lying-in chamber—duties for which it has been the object of her special training to qualify her.

"In what I am now saying, I am not Quixotically tilting at a windmill. The system of entering for training as a Monthly Nurse—without any previous knowledge of skilled Nursing—is one that prevails very largely. I want to enlist your co-operation in opposing it. See what it entails. The special training of a Monthly Nurse is supposed to be acquired in about two months. How much of this special training is a woman likely to obtain in that time, if she has first to be taught how to use a thermometer, how to pass a catheter, how to administer an enema, how to change a patient's linen, and so on? All her time will be taken up in mastering these elementary duties—duties that she ought to have known all about before coming to a special Institution; and the result is that she completes her course of training, having derived from it but a small part of the benefit she might have done.

"The duties of a Nurse during labour, the minute care required after labour is over, the watching for, and recognition of, the subtle changes that indicate impending mischief during the anxious period of lying-in, the mysteries of baby-washing, baby-dressing, and baby-feeding, are

quite as much as anyone can learn in the time allotted; and it cannot be wondered at that those Nurses, whose training-time has been occupied in learning what they ought to have already known, turn out failures."

We would go even further than Dr. Cullingworth, and say that the present system is about as bad as it can possibly be. We believe we are speaking within the mark when we say that not one Monthly Nurse in one hundred women professing to be qualified to act in that capacity, has had any general training of even the most elementary kind. Until very lately the percentage was probably even smaller, for it is only within the last few years that it has become the custom for Nurses at the conclusion of their regular training to enter for one, two, or three months' work at a Lying-in Hospital. But with the improvement in skilled Nursing in other cases, greater stress is now laid upon the knowledge essential for monthly work, and in few branches of the profession is "a little knowledge" more dangerous than in this. We believe, indeed, that women completely ignorant of Nursing will do infinitely less harm than is wrought by one who has acquired the superficial acquaintance with the subject imbibed by a two months' course of instruction, because most of the former at least would be conscious of their lack of knowledge. Many of the latter have just learnt so little as to imagine that they know everything.

Judging by the signs of the times, however, a new day is dawning for English mothers, and meanwhile we feel impelled to say this:—Obstetric Physicians have the matter practically in their own hands. If they would unitedly refuse to permit their patients to be tended by women whose only claim to the title of "Monthly" Nurses rests on the fact that their training as Nurses only lasted for that brief space of time, if they would insist that every woman desirous of such work should learn the whole routine of her profession first, and then, and only then, become a specialist, the question would be settled at once and for ever.

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THE HARVEST.—The law of the harvest is to reap more than you sow. Sow an act, and you reap a habit; sow a habit, and you reap a character; sow a character, and you reap a destiny.

You cannot live on sentiment any more than you can on macaroons or the fragrance of flowers. The food of life must be more nourishing; the garment of love is not all gold tissues, its woof and warp is of stouter stuff, but how beautiful then is the golden thread of sentiment that runs through it.

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