

a patient who is also her direct or indirect employer, while her new freedom from oversight also forces her to realise her greater responsibility.

When all these and many other differences are thought of, the only wonder is at the ready tact with which most adapt themselves to the altered conditions of their work. But it proves that it would be well if some means could be found whereby Hospital Nurses could, after the termination of the ordinary course of instruction, receive some tuition in what may fairly be called the "niceties" of Private Nursing, and be afforded the opportunity of seeing somewhat of the necessary routine and conditions under which they will be expected to pursue this branch of their calling. It can moreover be easily believed that such a preparation for the work would be both welcomed by the best Nurses and be of inestimable service to the richer public. Because there is no disguising the fact that at present through the length and breadth of this land, the only possible way whereby Nurses, however well trained in public Institutions, can acquire a knowledge of the hundred and one small details essential to private work, consists in learning these singly and separately by hard experience. Amongst these a prominent position must be assigned to cookery. Everyone is well aware of the extreme importance of diet in cases of disease, especially if long continued and exhausting. In the treatment, for example, of typhoid fever (which perhaps has furnished the most striking instances not only of the value, but of the prime necessity of skilled Nursing) the question of maintaining the patient's strength is the crucial point upon which life or death generally turns. And who amongst our readers has not seen cases in which the balance bent downwards because the patient sickened of ordinary beef tea, and became tired to repulsion of plain milk, and his attendant, albeit thoroughly skilled in the ordinary duties of her calling, had no acquaintance with methods by which the former nutriment could be made palatable, or the latter disguised into an appetising form?

Or, again, in nearly every case of convalescence, the palate has to be more or less tickled, so to speak, in order to induce the digestive apparatus, exhausted like the rest of the organism, to resume its functions. It is well known how difficult it is to persuade the sick after many illnesses to ingest sufficient nourishment to repair the ravages of disease and rebuild the tissues of health.

We are not speaking without actual experience when we express our conviction that the marked success which some Nurses constantly have with very bad cases, is due more to their ability to prepare tasty dishes, and thus tempt their patients

to "eat and live," than to their Nursing skill, however great.

It is a very frequent charge brought against Trained Nurses at the present day that they are "too good at nursing to be good at anything else." Most of our readers will understand the force and the cause of the complaint, because it is well known that a large number of women in all ranks of the profession devote themselves to the details of their work, to the absolute exclusion of all other interests. But we contend that some knowledge, however elementary, of invalid diets and of the practical methods of their preparation, is distinctly cognate to the work of tending the sick.

We earnestly commend this matter to the attention of those who have done, and are doing, so much for the cause of Nursing and the advancement of the knowledge and usefulness of Nurses. If the British Nurses' Association would organise classes or lectures on this subject, we believe they would be not only most useful, but most popular, for from many sources we have received complaints of the necessity of the knowledge, but the impossibility at present of acquiring such experience.

We would venture to express the hope that when the great schemes upon which the Association is now engaged have been one and all successfully initiated, the leaders of that body will consider this suggestion. We are well aware that Registration, and the various benevolent plans proposed to be undertaken during the next year, will immediately and immensely benefit Private Nurses as a body. But as individuals they would receive the greatest advantage from the scheme we suggest, and we earnestly hope that sooner, rather than later, it may be considered and undertaken by those best able to carry it into effect.

THE man who can stand and listen to the language of stolid ignorance, venomous bigotry, and personal insult, addressed to him in an offensive spirit, and offers no reply, exerts a far greater power upon the minds of his assailants than he could by words, however forceful. His silence reflects a moral majesty, before which the heart of his assailants will scarcely fail to cower.

BENVENUTO CELLINI records in his autobiography the bitter experiences he endured in being tempted to lie to the Duke, his patron, lest he should forfeit the favours of the Duchess—he who "was always a lover of truth and an enemy to falsehood, being then under the necessity of telling lies." "As I had begun to tell lies, I plunged deeper and deeper into the mire," till a very slough of despond it became to him.—*Francis Jacox.*

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