

them that a Matron is in danger of finding herself in collision ; but, if she is wise enough to see the good points in their view of a subject, and prompt to act on them, the Committee will be equally quick to trust her, and confidence and harmonious working will be established. With her knowledge of detail, and her grasp of the varied interests to be considered and weighed in her large household, she will, once having gained the confidence of her Committee, find no difficulty in modifying the frequently rather impractical ideas of some members of her Committee, and the prosperity of the Institute will be the happy result.

No one has more need to remember that partial successes are often all she can attain to than a Hospital Matron, and, though never lowering her own standard of desire, work, and effort, if she has learned to subdue her will and judgment in the true spirit of obedience, she will be so cheerfully thankful for the smallest measure of success that her work will be lightened and her life a brightening influence on all who have to work with and under her. Nothing brings such strength into a life as obedience. It is the very condition of power, and concentrates our forces as nothing else does. Obedience first to God, and His revelation to our souls ; and then, since by His will we are placed in our vocation, to those who are thereby set over us. The full realisation of the fact that obedience to those under whom God's Providence has placed us is obedience to God Himself must make all submission easy. Such submission never fails to bring strength and quietness into our lives. An unquiet life can never have much power. It is the strong and the calm who are the moral and spiritual masters, and no woman who has not learned the quietness and confidence that the spirit of obedience gives, and who has not the calmness of submission in her own nature, can ever rule others in the best and highest sense, which, I take it, is so to influence and dominate their wills that they will desire to do right, and strive to accomplish good work. Such a power is surely a better and higher thing than mere force of will compelling obedience, and in no one is it of more value than in a Hospital Matron. She has so wide a field for the use or abuse of power, and while it is her duty to maintain the discipline of her house, she may thereby so mould and instruct its members that they may be able in their turn to influence others for good.

No matter what office they may hold, the perfection of obedience is doubtless found in those women who have learnt to practise it both in will and by deed. Like the quality of mercy, it holds a two-fold blessing for those who learn

its ways, for the path both of those who give and of those who command obedience is made smoother thereby. It checks all ill-temper, for the habit of submission is established. It subdues the self-assertive spirit which makes a woman so narrow and jealous in her judgment, for it has become as second nature to acknowledge a superior ; and who have we ever to deal with that we do not find our superior in some point ?

It gives repose and strength to a life, for in temporal perplexities, as in the spiritual life, it is surely true what Thomas à Kempis teaches :—

“Run here, or run there, thou wilt find no rest but in subjection to those God has placed over you.”

NURSING ECHOES.

. *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*

THE meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association to-morrow (Friday) evening at 20, Hanover Square, at eight p.m., promises to be very interesting. I have just heard that Dr. Schofield, who was to have read a paper on “The Ethics of Life,” will be prevented from doing so, and that instead Dr. Bedford Fenwick has undertaken to open a discussion on the subject of a badge for Members. There is good reason to expect, therefore, a large attendance and good discussion on this most interesting subject.



I AM requested to state that the annual general Court of the Governors of the Royal Free Hospital was held last week on the premises of the institution in Gray's Inn Road. The Chairman of the Committee (Mr. W. T. Pritchard) presided, and amongst the Governors present were Lieutenant-General Gordon Pritchard, C.B., Messrs. Edward Masterman (Treasurer), Gainsford Bruce, Q.C., M.P., Charles Burt, Holroyd Chaplin, G. Acton Davis, James Green, Frederick Ingle, E. Ford North (Chairman of the Weekly Board), F. G. Prideaux, Henry Silver, Mrs. Lawrie, and Mrs. Thorne. The report, the adoption of which was moved by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. E. Ford North, congratulated the Governors upon the prospects and condition of the Hospital. The report of the Medical Staff showed the num-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)