

reflect that upon the prestige of their Training School may largely depend the position to which they may themselves attain in the Nursing hierarchy.

To explain our meaning, we would first define the interpretation which we attach to the word "prestige" in this connection. It goes without saying, that for a Hospital to have prestige, it must be important and well known from its position, its size, its wide field for clinical study, and the reputation of its Medical Staff. But all these qualifications may be hyper-excellent, and yet the Training School may have no reputation, or worse than none, in the Nursing world. An instance will occur to all our readers of a great Metropolitan Hospital which possesses all the advantages to which we have referred, and yet is so absolutely devoid of prestige that for some eight or ten years not one of the hundreds of Nurses trained within its walls has ever been elected Matron of an important London Hospital, and not half-a-dozen have secured a similar post in the Provinces, until after they have worked in, and thus profited by the prestige of, other Institutions. This is, moreover, so notorious that the Committee of this Institution attempt to palliate it by specially publishing the fact when some Hospital in Timbuctoo or Kamschatka applies to them to send out a Trained Nurse. It is a pitiful proof of the extraordinary ignorance of some Committees concerning Hospital matters, and their immense consequent gullibility, that they should seriously believe that Nurses would go to Timbuctoo if they could gain good posts in England, and that it is due to merely fortuitous accidents that their Nurses never do obtain direct advancement—except by expatriation. Such Committees will even be induced to believe that the reason why the Nurses leave their Hospital directly after they obtain their Certificates, and do not remain, as at other Institutions, to become Staff Nurses, and perhaps Sisters—to steady and teach their successors in pupilage, and so, greatly advantage the patients—is, because they are profoundly unselfish, and yearn that others should immediately be admitted to take their places, and enjoy the blessings which they have enjoyed.

Seriously, then, it may be said that two great tests of the prestige of a Hospital are, firstly, that its Certificated Nurses desire to remain in its service; and, secondly, the number of superior posts which its Nurses obtain at other Institutions. It comes to this, that the prestige of a Training School is directly proportional to the

good name which it bears amongst its own employées.

We would desire to emphasise this point, for it is most important. It is an aphorism to state that in these days of electric intercommunication knowledge is rapidly diffused; but it is peculiarly true as regards Nursing matters, because what happens to-day in one Hospital is known by the Nurses in a dozen Institutions to-morrow. If Nurses are treated unjustly and harshly anywhere the fact soon becomes known, and that School naturally sinks in professional estimation. It may be years before the fact becomes public; it may need a volcano—to speak metaphorically—to throw the lurid light of the Press upon deeds which have caused gossip, for many months, in a hundred Hospitals. It is by the professional opinion of Training Schools, then, that their true prestige must be gauged, and this depends, we firmly believe, upon the conduct of the School to its pupils.

We are not aware that this deduction has ever been drawn before, but it points such obvious morals that we desire to attract particular attention to it, at this present juncture. It has an especial lesson for Nurses to mark and remember. They are the persons chiefly affected, not only while working at the School, but even when they leave it; because the prestige—or the lack of it—of their Hospital, is directly reflected upon themselves. The clear conclusion, therefore, is that it is the best interest—to put it on the lowest ground—of Nurses to enhance by every means in their power the good name of their Alma Mater; that their Hospital should be, in short, to them, what his College is to the University student; and that each Nurse should do all that in her lies, to increase its efficiency and reputation. It cannot be denied that there is a lamentable deficiency of *esprit de corps* amongst Nurses—due, perhaps, to the want of organisation of their calling; perhaps, to the strange inability of women to work with other women to gain a common end. Whatever the reason be, it must be eradicated, and Nurses must become more devoted to their work, more devoted to their Training School, than the generality are at present, if the advancement of Nursing is to continue.

We preach this sermon now, as we have preached upon other texts before, because it is a matter of most serious moment just at this present time. We are on the verge of a revolution in the Nursing world. The old order has changed, and is about to give place to the new.

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