

Amateur Nurses.

By LINA MOLLETT.

"THE world iz now full of larning, the arts and sciences, and all the thousand appliances of reazon; these things make ignorance the exception, and no man haz a right teu cultivate contentment, enny more than he haz tew cut oph hiz thum, and set quietly down, and nuss the stub."—JOSH BILLINGS.

LIKE amateur ballooning, amateur nursing has its risks and its rewards—its bold flights into the regions of the unknown, the fascination of the uncertain, and its headlong tumbles earthward. Unlike amateur ballooning, its victim of mistaken enterprise is usually not the aeronaut.

The widespread sympathy of the present age with educated sick Nurses, the respect, even reverence, they command among all classes of the population, has had the result of developing a class of beings like, yet unlike, the genuine article—the professional amateur sick Nurse.

I do not refer to the professional nursing fraud, whose manœuvres are a fit subject for legal consideration, but to the lady of independent means, whose mania is to consider herself the prophetess of Hygeia, and to whom all conversations, be they on American humorists or Corney Grain's latest, are but means to one end, to which in some inexplicable manner they always contrive to lead up—health, nursing, and medicine.

In this she differs from her trained sisters, who, with their uniform, have almost invariably the good taste to lay aside "shop," and, like the rest of mankind, confine their conversation to such general topics as alone make social intercourse among people of varied professions pleasant, or even possible.

Again, the professional amateur sick Nurse differs in being a blend of Physician and Nurse, without the training of either. I was personally acquainted with a lady of this description, who called in a Doctor during her maid's illness, allowed him to prescribe and to imagine his prescriptions carried out, while all the time she was administering her own pet medicines, and rather glorying in the row of unopened physic bottles accumulating on her shelf—much as a school-boy might gloat over a hoarded collection of useless buttons; or a girl make a pet toy of her little museum of empty egg-shells.

But, perhaps, it is as well for us grown-up children not to play with edged tools—and disease is a sorry plaything. Most of us would resent the code of etiquette that five thousand years ago caused the guests assembled at an Egyptian dinner party, to submit politely to the introduction of a corpse in their midst; yet it is difficult to observe much *progress* in the sentiments of a

modern drawing-room hostess, who, with far less didactic intent, invites the shadow of death, in the form of "chit-chat" on decay and suffering, to take part in the general conversation devoted to hours of *recreation*.

Setting aside the annoyance caused by self-made nursing devotees, one is forced to confess that one of the greatest compliments paid to the trained Nurse, is the existence of the "amateur professional sick Nurse." As shadow is the natural result of light, the unreal treads on the heels of the real. In the natural course of events, Japanese screens, Italian iron work, and Chipendale furniture, no sooner became fashionable than imitations—good, bad, and indifferent—became the fashion, too. The newly-born enthusiasm for Cruickshank's spirited drawings has been the signal for sets of "original sketches," declared by their proud owners to be the work of that delightful artist. Public appreciation cannot be better expressed than by that old-fashioned, new-fashioned, ever-fashionable form of flattery—imitation.

(To be continued.)

Royal British Nurses' Association.

WE have the great pleasure to bring before our readers the exact wording of the document now under consideration of the Privy Council, and which is termed the

DRAFT CHARTER.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME GREETING.

WHEREAS it has been represented to Us by Our Most Dearly Beloved Daughter HELENA, PRINCESS CHRISTIAN of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess of Great Britain and Ireland—

That in 1887 a Society was established in London called the "British Nurses' Association," which has since its establishment been joined by more than three thousand Nurses, each one of whom has been engaged for three years or more in attendance upon the sick.

That the said Association was not established for the purpose of gain but for the purposes of the improvement of the profession of Nurses and of the promotion of their efficiency and usefulness and of assisting them by various benevolent schemes.

That in furtherance of the said objects a List of Nurses has been compiled and published setting forth the names and addresses of Nurses, with the names of the Hospitals or Institutions at which they have been trained and the length of training which each has received, thus enabling the public to form a more accurate judgment of the professional education and experience of the Nurses so registered.

That a benevolent fund has been established for the purpose of giving aid to Nurses and that the management of the said Association is vested in certain eminent members of the Medical Profession, Matrons of Hospitals, and other persons interested in Nursing.

And that in 1891 We were graciously pleased to confer

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