

in the vicinity, where their position, curious to English ideas, is perfectly understood, and the progress of their domestic studies the subject of a good deal of friendly banter.

"Girls ought to learn to manage a house in their own home," is the objection people raise against the German plan. Certainly, if it were always made impossible for a conceited and ignorant schoolgirl to rule before she has learned to govern. People do not always realise that to know what work is, what time it requires and how it must be taken in hand, one must have actually worked. The most kind-hearted ruler who has never served is, at times, apt to be a taskmaster, or *vice versa* a weakling, an almost more dangerous governor. Method is not only wanted in Hospitals: it is wanted everywhere, unless the machinery of government is to work in irritating jerks and gasps, with perhaps at last a general explosion to clear the way for a less spasmodic rule. Probation teaches the future ruler the value of service, that "fundamental art of governing" on which the intricacies of leadership must rest.

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(To be continued.)

## The Birmingham Hospitals.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL (continued).

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WE will devote a little more time to No. 6 Ward. The bedsteads are of iron, and of a somewhat old-fashioned shape that I think was called tent; that is, with an overhead framework, doubtless intended to be draped, but here wisely left bare. One good purpose is served by this make of bedstead, for, attached by a chain to an iron cross-bar near the head of the bed is the useful bed-ring, by means of which the patients can raise themselves, or help the Nurses to raise them in their beds. These rings are covered with red flannel or worsted to make them soft to the hands, and being in pretty constant motion, give a certain sort of animation to the Ward, and from their numbers irresistibly reminded me of the parrot house in the Zoo, and I quite expected to see a "Polly" swinging in one of them, and felt sorry I had forgotten to put a lump of sugar in my pocket for her. One reason perhaps for this unusual flutter amongst the "rings" was the near approach of tea-time, four p.m., the one hour of all the twenty-four that as the Matron told us the patients most look forward to, the happiest in the Ward day. So all those who were able were busily engaged with their lockers, placed as usual close to their beds. We all know that the souls of Sisters go not forth to lockers, but in this Hospital they are quite a venerable institution, and the patients themselves appear to regard them as a cherished personal possession during their stay, possibly because they contain the "belongings" they are allowed or required to bring in with them: amongst other items

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