see, with reference to the London Hospital. Extreme efforts are being made to persuade the public that the Lords have whitewashed that Institution. We shall have little difficulty in proving that in reality they have said as little as they possibly could on the subject, and that, indeed, they have performed the feat of "damning with faint praise."

Trained Nursing.

BY DR. W. L. ESTES.

(*Continued from page 501.*)

THIS, then, is the true object of your training. Do not fancy for a moment that your professional education means simply the *drawing out* of your memory, or the storing up of a mass of facts and figures. It means, rather, the acquirement of these in *order* that you may be able to comprehend the greatness of your work, and your training ought to consist in the *use* of this knowledge in order to develop the *latent* strength which is so essential in your profession. All this is to equip you for your real work—the study and comprehension of your fellow-man, and the adaptation of all proper means for alleviating his sufferings. Study your patients individually, and learn to discriminate. It is as dangerous and foolish for a Nurse to try to manage every patient after the same manner as it is for a Physician to attempt to treat every disease with the same remedy.

The advantage of a Hospital training is, therefore, obvious. A large number of individuals come under observation, and are presented for study. First, under direction, the Nurse is sent to do certain offices for these individuals. Her work is criticised or approved by Nurses of greater experience. The opportunities of personal service increase; they multiply and become more complex as the term of service proceeds. Absolute obedience to orders is the first lesson taught. Exactitude in the performance of the orders is required; regularity of ministration is inculcated, and systematic records must be kept. The Nurse advances, and is permitted to do more responsible work; she is put in charge of a Ward, and becomes personally responsible for the care of a number of patients. She is then a teacher, and directs other Nurses. She is a disciplinarian, and preserves order, and sees that rules are carried out. Finally, she is allowed to go out, and, with totally changed environment and widely varying surroundings, to assume individual responsibility for cases in private practice. In this course there appear all the essentials for proper training. Sufficient opportunity is given for the study of individuals and individual ailments. The value of command is appreciated by the tacit obedience that has been rendered and required; exactitude, regularity, and system, and the habit of recording have been learned; new ideas, thoughts, and just criticisms have been excited by the teaching which has been required; and self-command and self-reliance ought to have been developed by the responsibility which has been given and required. If a Nurse fails, it is, therefore, her own fault. It is well for you to think of this while you are yet in training. You are going to succeed or fail according as you use your present opportunities. Your teachers may influence and instruct you, perhaps, but your real *education* must depend upon your individual selves, and this means that it all depends upon what use you make of the material which is offered to you here for the "drawing out" of your potentialities. If you have no latencies, no potentialities for this work, better, far better, that you give it up at once. You will never succeed, in any true sense of the word. With the light you have already acquired, search diligently yourselves, and discover whether you truly desire to be a Nurse, and whether you love the work better than all else besides. Believe me, a Nurse "is born, not made"!

You have entered a profession, and the most exacting of all professions—the medical profession. Have you ever thought what it means to belong to a *profession?* It implies the acceptance and subscription to certain tenets, certain rules, and certain methods. In entering the medical profession you oblige yourselves to regard the rules of that profession. In the olden days it was the custom of the neophyte to formally subscribe to a certain oath, called the Hippocratic oath, before he was admitted into the profession. This excellent confession of medical faith contained certain clauses which every conscientious man and woman must *always* regard, and though now an unwritten law, should be considered just as binding as in former days, and a few, at least, of its tenets should be inviolable. One of these—and I charge you solemnly to regard it—is, the personal affairs, the ailments and the idiosyncrasies of a patient must be considered more sacred than those of your own selves. Some time ago, in ask-

previous page next page