

weeks ago. Considering the intense interest professional Nurses take in their work, I suppose one must not be disappointed that they fail to find time and inclination for outside affairs. Certainly, nothing can be more disastrous to "good work" than the spirit of "gadding," which one hears is creeping into some of our great nursing schools.

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I HEARD a Hospital Sister remark the other day, That what with times off duty—morning, noon and night—she expected that soon her Probationers would call in once a week and ask her how things were going on. "In my probationary days," she said, "late passes were never granted—we needed all the sleep we could get to come on duty fresh and rested; now I find puffy-eyed Pros. dawdling through their morning's work, quite unfit for duty, after a second late pass in a fortnight. It is now *comme il faut* to see every new play; where is the old spirit of earnestness and devotion to duty?"

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"How well I remember when I was a Probationer," she continued, "flying down to Matron to ask permission to return to the ward after supper to see my first tracheotomy, and how she smiled up at me and gave consent, remarking how much my interest in my work pleased her; and yet it is only last week that a Probationer, helping in the morning to prepare for her first ovarian operation, reminded me that 'it was her half day.'" Personally, I sympathise with the somewhat drastic measures that commended themselves to this excellent Sister.

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It is gratifying to be able to report that the scheme of District Nursing for the poor in their own homes, which is proving so beneficial wherever it has been established, has been introduced into the small fishing town of Buckie, on the coast of Banffshire. This has not been done without encountering many difficulties. Certain local prejudices had to be overcome, and the Queen's Nurse who has begun work there may have to exercise much tact and patience before she finds herself an altogether welcome visitor in the homes of the fisher people, whose exclusiveness is not to be lightly meddled with. But it is hoped that this will be only a matter of time, while there can be little question about the good which, if permitted, such a Nurse will be able to effect. The Committee to whose vigorous efforts the movement is due have had to face the serious question of expense in a spirit to faith and hope.

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THE population of Buckie is only about 6,000, and they are mostly poor fisher people who, even if willing, can be expected to contribute little or nothing towards the £70 a year required for the salary and maintenance of a Queen's Nurse. It says much for the energy and liberality of the Committee and their friends that enough to start with has already been gathered together. This was partly done by means of a *Conversazione*, held in January, at which Miss GUTHRIE WRIGHT, Secretary to the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Institute, and Dr. Angus Fraser, Chairman of the Aberdeen District Nursing Association, were present, and gave much needful information about the scheme and its working. Buckie has set a good example which we hope will be followed in other towns and villages in the north-east of Scotland.

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A REMARKABLE suggestion was recently made in a letter which appeared in the *Daily Graphic*. In a discussion headed "Where are the Cooks?" a correspondent, under the signature of "B," makes herself responsible for the following:—"I think, if we are to get good cooks, we must in some way throw the glamour of gentility over the calling. Is there no great lady who could form an 'order' or 'guild' of *Cordons bleus*? They would have to have a really pretty and becoming uniform, and should be regarded as enjoying the same position in the household as the trained Nurse does when summoned to a case."

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It is interesting to hear that our caps and aprons are regarded by "B" as inventions to cast the "glamour of gentility" over our work. The nursing world has been struggling for a long time to raise its professional and social standard, but it seems there is yet a great deal to be done. And, I am sure, that one very important point is to protect our uniforms. At present, anyone who chooses may adopt a Nurse's bonnet and cloak, whether trained, untrained, or no Nurse at all. And it must frequently have occurred to anyone of much observation that the dress of the house and parlourmaid is approximating more and more to the uniform of a Hospital Nurse. "Smart" housemaids imitate our caps, our aprons, and our turned down collars, and turned back cuffs, and do their best to masquerade as Hospital Sisters. The time surely is ripe for the uniform of a Nurse to be clearly defined and protected from abuse and imitation.

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