

day, except sit by 'Jimmie.' Jimmie has double hip-disease, and is bandaged to two long splints, and weights hanging at the end of his bed—poor mite—he has red hair and very blue veins, and when the pain 'springes,' he catches his breath, and calls out 'Oh! me 'ip, me 'ip.' Nurse S. showed me how to place my hand over it and press it; it stops the jumping, and eases the pain; I never moved my hand from 6 to 8; how my arm ached! it was very interesting; I suppose it was pain—anyway it made me feel. Jimmie went to sleep. Isaac is only two; he is the son of a miner at Ilkerstone; he is a 'show baby' in his cot; his head is covered with golden tight little curls, and he has such damask cheeks and blue, blue eyes; when you turn down the bed-clothes you see *one* little fat dimpled leg and foot, and, on a little pillow, *one stump*—the L. S. called it 'a beautiful stump healed by first intention.' She said, quite proudly, 'That is the result of good surgery and good nursing.' Poor lamb! The L. S. says I am made of the 'right stuff.' I think she has formed this opinion because I kissed 'Charlie' (that requires explanation). Charlie is her Clumber spaniel; he is washed by the cook, and is as 'sweet as flowers in May.' I *know* she prefers him to *humans*—so do I, to *well* ones. She amused me to-night by telling me of the discussion she had with the Committee about my coming here as a Paying Probationer. They remarked they did not wish the 'element introduced; that young ladies who could dance all night, and ride to hounds in the morning, could hardly be suitable for Hospital Nurses'; that, '*vitiating* by two London seasons,' etc. Funny old things! I must convert them from the error of their ways; I should think it a very poor compliment to offer myself for the service of the sick, if I was not young—vigorous—earnest—and did not possess some knowledge of the world. This appears to me a life to which one must devote one's whole self; the more of youth's glorious attributes—health and strength—one can expend, so much the better for the poor sick—for sick creatures are poor, indeed. I nipped up Tom to-night when they were making his bed, and carried him to the couch; he is a great lad of twelve, and has a stiff knee joint, owing to diseased bone, with little drainage tubes burrowing through it, for all the world like worms. "Well! I'm blowed," he exclaimed. "Well, I'm not," I answered, after which exchange of witticisms we became very friendly. I have got a little book. I am to put down everything I observe and learn daily—this is a good plan. I will copy the entries into my diary. To-day I have learnt that a Hospital is 'not beyond the world's most purple rim'; that human nature is much of a muchness all the world over; never to pin a bandage; the difference between a probe and a director; the horrors of heredity; *the impossibility of slacking the thirst for knowledge.*"

On the 7th of October, a letter from Miss Isla Stewart appeared in this column, suggesting the advisability of, and the benefit likely to ensue from, free discussion in our pages, by Matrons and Nurses of experience, upon subjects affecting their own interest and the progress of their profession. The manner in which this valuable suggestion has been met, and the instructive opinions which have been expressed so far, gives every encouragement for hope that the scheme may prove of much value to Nurses, and to the general public interested in nursing matters.

The organization of Nursing as a Profession, and, in consequence, the education of Nurses—or, in other words, What is a Trained Nurse?—speedily became the question for discussion, and we formulated, in our issue of October the 21st, six questions which appeared to us to have an important bearing on the subject, and which we hoped would be widely discussed:—No. 1, Should Probationers pay for their training? If so, how much? has now been ventilated for four weeks, and it will be well to review the conclusions of the experienced writers before proceeding to discuss No. 2, Is a Preliminary Examination advisable? If so, in what subjects? Amongst those ladies who have given the public the benefit of their views, and which have been printed, are the following thirteen Matrons:—Miss Isla Stewart, St. Bartholomew's; Miss de Pledge, Chelsea Infirmary; Miss Miriam Ridley; Miss K. V. Macintyre, Wigan Infirmary; Miss Henrietta Lawrence, Longton Hospital; Mrs. Charlotte Okell, Bridgewater Infirmary; Miss Maud G. Smith, Bristol Royal Infirmary; Miss L. Mawe, late Dunedin Hospital; Miss Marion B. Mackey, Throat Hospital; Miss Marion C. Pincoffs, Minehead; "An old Lady Pupil;" "A Young Matron;" and "One of our most experienced and progressive Matrons." We find that the majority of Matrons hesitate, under the present conditions of Nurse training, to advocate so drastic a change as compulsory payment for training, fearing that much good material would thus be lost to our schools, and foreseeing great difficulties in altering the present constitution. "A young Matron" humbly suggests "that the question could easily be put to the test if the training was defined," and here we are inclined to agree with her, as the experience of life proves that "what is worth having is worth paying for."

Miss Stewart, Mrs. Okell, and "An Old Lady Pupil," are strongly of opinion that if further progress is to be made in the teaching of Probationers, and, in consequence, the expense of the curriculum is to increase, that the Nurses themselves must contribute, to some extent, to meet the increased expenditure, and we feel, with these ladies, that increased self-respect and independence would be the result of such a course.

Next week, the question for discussion will be No. 2, "Is a preliminary examination advisable? If so, in what subjects?" And we hope all those who have discussed question No. 1 will give our readers the benefit of their views on this important question, and that many others, whose opinions have not yet been expressed, will join in the discussion.

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