

ports herself when on duty, what type of training she has passed through—and, of course, these comments entirely refer to etiquette when on duty. When she is attending a doctor at the bedside of a patient, does she omit to address him as "Sir," or, worse still, does she do so, as "Dr. Jones" or "Mr. Brown"? the conclusion is obvious. She has never realised that he is her superior officer, and she has never been taught by others, or by her own sense of the fitness of things, that the rules of the quarter-deck or the parade ground hold good in the Hospital ward or the private sick room. Does she stand with her arms first a-kimbo, then folded across her chest, and then in some other position as if they were some novel encumbrances which she did not quite know what to do with? or does she first prop herself against the patient's bed, and then against the wall or a table as if she imagined that such attitudes indicate independence and self-possession? once more the experienced observer merely ascribes them all to ignorance and *gaucherie*.

The initial lesson in Etiquette, therefore, which the trained Nurse learns and practises, and which the untrained Nurse exhibits her professional ignorance by not observing, is the maintenance towards all her official superiors, of the most scrupulous politeness and courtesy, and the most precise obedience to orders. The more clearly Probationers understand the nature of their duties, the more do they come to realise the cardinal importance of official discipline in their daily work; and that expressed deference to their superior officer when on duty, is honourable alike to themselves and to their service.

So far as the second principle, to which we have above alluded, is concerned, it is almost needless to go into details, because probably all Nurses will admit that the rule should be one for universal guidance. Faithfully fulfilled, however, there can be no doubt that if every member of the profession invariably treated her commanding officer, her patients, and her fellow Nurses as she would wish them to treat her, if their positions were reversed, the whole Nursing world would be immensely elevated in public esteem. It is not too much to say that the proverbial unselfishness, devotion, and absolute trustworthiness of medical men, individually, are the reasons why that profession now stands so deservedly high in popular estimation. And the rigid observance of medical etiquette by all ranks of doctors must have had a large share in the general elevation of their work. It is earnestly to be hoped, therefore, that Nurses will, as time goes on, be more and more scrupulously careful to observe the unwritten laws of their calling, and that each one, by her own adherence to the rules of Nursing Etiquette, will do her part in enforcing those rules upon all her fellow-workers with whom she may come in contact.

#### THE SUCCESS OF UNION.

THAT Unity means Strength is an old-world dictum, but it is pleasant to observe that Nurses have realised its truth. The success of their Chartered Corporation—steadily, though slowly, gained in the face of the greatest opposition—has proved that Nurses have been the first professional women to unite in large numbers for the purpose of gaining important public objects. One of the first schemes advocated by the Royal British Nurses' Association in the first pamphlet which it issued—early in the year 1888—was the establishment of Offices for the employment of Nurses so that they might obtain their earnings without the intervention of the middleman. It was some two or three years before the suggestion was adopted, and it was then carried out by others because the time and thought of the Association was fully occupied by other matters, but the comparatively rapid success, which has been achieved by the Nurses' Co-operation, has quite conclusively proved both the wisdom and the usefulness of the proposal. It is with much pleasure that we learn that this body of Nurses is constantly growing in numbers, and in favour with the public and the medical profession. It is possible that, before long, there will be further developments of the scheme carried into effect; and then an important problem will have been solved to the satisfaction of every one concerned, with the sole exception of those few Institutions who supply ignorant and inefficient workers to the public, terming them and charging for them as thoroughly trained Nurses—a form of fraud against which, by the way, the public is becoming on its guard.

#### SAFE MEDICINE.

SUCH is the touching title assumed by a Company, whose proceedings are at present attracting more attention than they deserve. It is understood that it proposes to hold examinations, and confer the degree of M.D.; but inasmuch as the value of that diploma will be neither less nor greater than the market value of the material upon which it is imprinted, and as any attempt to assume the said title for purposes of gain, without more legal authority, would assuredly be followed, sooner or later, by the institution of proceedings in a police-court, it hardly seems necessary to treat the Company seriously, or to afford it the advertisement for which it probably hankers, by a solemn action at law. It is announced, however, that the machinery of the law is to be placed in motion, which reminds us of the much ridiculed employment of a steam hammer for the purpose of cracking a nut. Is the game really worth the candle? The British public dearly loves quackery, and now that its Harness is removed from its back, the field is open for some other form; and after all there is something very attractive and ingenuous in the idea of Medical Examinations, under the limited liability Companies' Acts. We can view the matter quite impartially, because it will probably be long before a Company will be promoted for Safe Nursing on the same lines.

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