

A MEETING was lately held in the Town Hall in Ballymena, for the purpose of formally opening the Jane H. Orr Memorial Nurses' Home, a building which has been erected to perpetuate the memory of Miss JANE ORR, of Hugomont (a most loyal member of the R.B.N.A.), a lady who lost her life rather more than two years ago by contracting fever from a patient in her district, in which she was a most devoted and sincerely beloved worker.

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THE following excellent advice is tendered to the readers of the *Trained Nurse* by its able Editor:—

"If there is any one attribute of human nature which can so lower the individual in the scale of humanity, as does the trait of selfishness, it certainly exists in an embryotic state, and will require the nurture of future generations for its mature development. A selfish person is ignorant and narrow-minded. They exist, but do not live, for you get out of life exactly what you put in it. The woman whose thoughts centre on self, is invariably a fool. She lacks the sweetness and roundness which go so far in the make up of a real, admirable character. Selfishness is always an indication of mental weakness, vanity and petty jealousies occupy the undeveloped mind. Such a person is simply an excrescence, an unsightly blot, a result which does no credit to society. A selfish woman never hesitates at questionable methods to secure her own pleasure; prevarications, deliberate falsehoods and treachery are favourite tools and always in use. Someone is always found who can be made willing by these means to pander to a morbid taste, and, in this way, aid still more to the growth of an already depraved nature. In such people, the highest and noblest attributes of our natures are entirely lacking, and so it is impossible for them to recognize or appreciate the good in others. Constant regard for self has blinded their eyes, and instead of a warm, sympathetic heart, there is only a blackened spot; they are of no value to themselves or to others. Every self-centred life is a complete failure. Every reader of Dante's 'Inferno' understands its central idea to be, that hell is a state of selfishness, since everywhere is shown the evil result of self-will. In the vestibule of hell, he rightly places the selfish fallen angels, 'these wretches who never lived,' being faithful neither to God nor Satan, but only to themselves, driven from heaven, refused by hell. 'Let us not speak to them,' said Virgil, 'but look and pass.'"

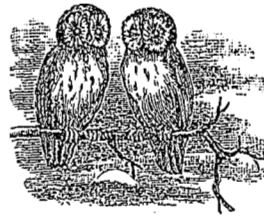
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"Study human nature. It is not necessary to do this in a criticizing, fault-finding frame of mind, but, with the desire to learn just what men and women are in reality. There are many persons who owe their success in life to their keen insight into human nature. They understood just what could be accomplished with circumstances and persons, and were quick to seize the opportunity. It is not an easy matter to always understand one's self; it is always easy to criticize others, but it is by this study of others, that we learn to understand ourselves. Do not regard everyone with contempt and suspicion; if you observe closely, you will find good qualities in all, and if you have made mistakes in overestimating the worth of someone you will learn by the experience. It is by your study of dispositions, that you learn the art of controlling others. By your comparisons you learn to eliminate in yourself the qualities you dislike in someone else, and the difficulty you may have in doing this, will cause you to have greater charity for another who may not have the same amount of determination. There are many persons whose weak spots have made firm stepping-stones for the advancement of another, but do not have self-advancement as your motive, but rather self-improvement. Learn to know your own capabilities."

Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?

For what length of time should a Probationer be trained in the wards of a Hospital, and how should that training be organised in order to fit her to hold every position in the profession?



MADAM,—There is, no doubt, a consensus of opinion in the minds of those best fitted to form a judgment, that three years must be the term during which a Nurse has served in a Hospital before she may aspire to be called a "Trained Nurse."

I do not think, however, that those who desire to see that name truly one of honour, should rest satisfied with the mere qualification of three years' service, without some further guarantee that it is spent under what really is a system of training. As I pointed out in an article published in the *NURSING RECORD* of 23rd February, there are many cases where Nurses get certificates of three years' training who have only picked up what knowledge they could in the wards, probably at the expense of their patients. The atmosphere of hurry which pervades Hospital life is very much against true training and discipline in detail, and results in that want of finish which some of your correspondents deplore. It also prevents the careful study of the individual by the teacher; and uniformity in externals, though desirable, is not nearly so important as the cultivation and development of the personal capacity, which should underlie the external unity of work. Hospital teaching naturally divides into three lines, which should be as the separate strands of a threefold cord: work in the wards, lectures on theory and science, and the teaching in class by Matron or Sister. In the wards a great responsibility lies with the head Nurse or Sister. Are they always selected with this important part of their duty kept in view? It is to be feared that many do not realise their duty to teach. One of the benefits to be hoped for from a more uniform standard of training is, that it would give a definiteness to teaching and oblige Sisters to be methodical in their manner of giving instruction, first, in the routine of ward work, and then in the actual nursing of the patients. Generally a Probationer is very confused by her first entry into Hospital life, and it takes her some time to understand the daily duties; till she does, there is not much use in sending her to attend lectures, with the excitement of examinations to follow. She should give her whole mind to ward work; learn to see, hear, and feel. When once she is at home in the daily routine, then the lectures from the medical staff are invaluable, and the Matron's class will quicken her observation and intelligence, and give her an interest in the work she is learning to take her part in. In the second year the Nurse should have experience of night-nursing—at first as Probationer under a competent Nurse; then as "special," and finally, in a more responsible position, but still immediately under the eye of the Night Superintendent. In her third year she should be instructed in Ward Nurse's work, and in teaching

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