

THE preliminary examinations of the first year's Probationers have lately taken place at the Chelsea Infirmary. Probationer CANDY passed first; Probationer HANDCOCK, second; and Probationer LEACH, third. The subjects comprised Elementary Anatomy, Physiology, and Nursing.

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A CHARMING Concert was lately given at the Nurses' Home of Rest, Brighton, by Mrs. EDWARD and the Misses SASSOON, in which the piano (presented by Miss RACHEL SASSOON), violins, mandolins, and sweet human voices, all took part. A charade was performed by the Nurses—completing an enjoyable gathering. Those who have visited the Home will be glad to hear that Mrs. MCINTYRE is regaining strength, and hopes soon to be able to take up all her old duties—thereby adding much to the happiness of all her visitors.

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WE find that we made a mistake concerning the exact name by which Miss ALICIA BROWNE is known, now she is fully professed as a Sister of All Saints. During her Novitiate she was known as Sister LUCY ALICIA—now she is Sister ALICIA only. We insert this correction as there is a Sister LUCY in the Sisterhood, and some confusion might occur with regard to letters.

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A LECTURE was lately delivered, at the Conference Hall, by Mrs. GEORGE KING (Sister JANET), Royal Red Cross, concerning the Ladies' Volunteer Movement, in which she is reported in the *Queen* to have said:—

"Probably, no Nursing Sister had seen more of the conditions of war than herself. With the army of the Lom in the Russo-Turkish campaign, and subsequently at the front in the Zulu war, Mrs. King has had experience enabling her to speak with some authority on the subject.

If, she said, this movement has for its object the parading of certain ambitious young ladies with our volunteer regiments, gaited in slim masculine attire, there is nothing much to be said. If, on the other hand, they in all seriousness propose to go on the battle field with arms in their hands, either as bearers, or combatants, I tell them that the scheme is ridiculous. These martial young ladies have little idea of the horrors of war, of the passion and cruelty exhibited during the combat. Trying enough it is to a woman to follow the army in its arduous marches, to sleep perhaps in open carts, on a snowy night, to endure all sorts of hardships, including perhaps, insufficient food—to work all day long without rest, and with no time for refreshment, receiving and tending the wounded—but only a man's strength and a soldier's training is equal to the task these young ladies would so lightly undertake.

Soldiers in war look upon the Red Cross Sister as an angel of mercy, ready to succour friend and foe alike; but how would the woman be regarded who unsexes herself, as it were, and, dressed in masculine attire, with arms in her hands, essays to share the combat? How will she fare when the fearful hand-to-hand fight is raging? I have, said Mrs. King, seen men come from the combat, a little while before a serried array, now a motley crowd, maddened with battle, clothes tattered and torn, faces blackened with powder, and

stained with blood, eyes glaring forth the fury of wild beasts. How would your lady volunteer fare then? Will she look for any distinction in the treatment of sexes? And what would be her fate as a prisoner of war to savage Cossack, or brutal Bashi Bazook, to fierce Zulu, or cruel and crafty Afghan?

There is plenty of work for woman to do in nursing and tending the wounded—work for which she is more fitted than the other, and work more worthy of her; but, as bearers of the wounded on the field of battle, women would be in the way, and, indeed, unless exceptionally strong, physically unsuited for the work—work that would be far better performed by men.

As combatants, I fear they would be even much more out of their element, much more an encumbrance to an army than a help, but, above all, a degradation to woman's nature, which should revolt at the idea of taking the lives of others."

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THE article on Charity, in the March Number of the *Trained Nurse*, has brought forth the following wise replies, and we feel sure the liberal views which suggest them cannot be too widely ventilated:—

"I am sure the superintendents can do much toward bringing about a better feeling among Nurses. There is more than work enough for all trained Nurses, and jealousy is the most unreasonable as well as unprofitable of all feelings in which a Nurse can indulge. In my work as Superintendent of a Hospital and training school, in a large Western city, I had occasion to observe and deeply regret this feeling. Although each one of the four training schools of the city was in the embryo stage of existence, yet an almost ludicrous jealousy existed among the various institutions. The trouble began with the board of directors, continued with the doctors and superintendents, and ended with the nurses. The results were disastrous to the best interests of all parties concerned. No one superintendent in any city can effect a complete change, but each one can help to do it. The idea of a National organization is excellent, but while waiting for the development of that huge scheme, why can we not have city and State organizations? Such societies, led by the superintendents of the training schools in the various cities, would be a great help toward forming a National Association. Under the direction of these smaller societies, we could have occasional meetings for the discussion of questions of interest to Nurses. New "fads" among physicians, recent points in surgery, and surgical dressings, and helpful notes on the cure of private patients, could be brought out by the members, and each one helped by the experience of the other. "Such is the use and noble end of friendship—to bear each other's burdens, and, by dividing, make the lighter weight." Why not apply that sentiment in our relations to our Sister-Nurses."

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"I am in hearty sympathy with the article in the March number, referring to the lack of kindly feeling between superintendents, and between Nurses of different schools. I would go even further and say, before millennial peace and good will can exist between members of the same school, the superintendent must cease teaching her pupils that with her entrance into the school, it suddenly became so superior, that her Nurses would find themselves at gradation, farther advanced, than Nurses who had graduated under a former superintendent; although they may have had years of experience in private practice, under leading physicians, and thus enabled themselves to have kept in touch with the advanced movements in Nursing. In short, should superintendents try to divide their schools into as many sections as there may have been changes of superintendents?

ANOTHER BELIEVER IN CHARITY."

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