

accordingly. To come under the discipline of a great Hospital where Duty is the watchword, and where the highest ideals and traditions prevail, leaves a mark on a Nurse that she can seldom fail to keep. Obedience must be strictly enforced, and it must be remembered that those who serve best afterwards rule best. He would urge upon all Nurses to respect and venerate their Matrons. They had several Matrons taking active part in the government of their Association, and they needed more of them.

But the subject of the modern Trained Nurse was not complete without reference to the future. He knew of no work besides Nursing that so fits a woman for the highest outcome of life, namely, matrimony. He wished nothing better for many of them than to be matron of their own establishment. It was a piece of modern cant to decry matrimony. He did not urge them to seek matrimony, but he bid them be ready when a good opportunity offered.

The Trained Nurse, the lecturer continued, is now much in evidence, and, as a rule, her special dress is suitable and becoming, though he could wish that it was less varied and less conspicuous. The veil—he supposed it was a veil—is a part of the costume he could not understand or appreciate; it is never seen in use. What purpose, he asked, is served by three or four feet of gauze that keeps flapping into people's faces. The dress was, however, on the whole becoming, and even women hardly comely look well in it. He thought they had a right to complain that domestic servants now closely copy it. "But," he concluded, "fret not yourselves because of the ungodly; do right and fear nobody, follow a high line in conduct, be zealous of your calling, do your duty to your patients, and by the light of your conscience. . . . Remember no one can do the work you profess; be content with it, be proud of it, and jealous of the reputation of the Nursing Schools in which you were trained; and remember the Royal British Nurses' Association in no way detaches you from allegiance to those schools and institutions; it exists for your highest benefit, and no less for that of the public whose servants and best friends we all are."

Mrs. Spencer said they had been much interested in hearing Sir Dyce's decided opinion upon the modern Nurse. She thought a four years' training too long. Nurses cannot begin before the age of 23; at the end of four years they would be 27; and there are some people who do not care to employ them after the age of 35. She believed that a training in a small country hospital was useful to a Nurse.

Miss Stewart said that she did not know any Hospital that trained for four years. St. Bartholomew's compelled the Nurses to stay four years, but they were certificated at the end of three, and received a salary after this. She would like to see a shorter training than three years eliminated altogether.

The Chairman (Mr. Herbert Page) having given a brief summary of Sir Dyce Duckworth's remarks, the meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

The Link Shell Truss Co., 171, Wardour Street, London, W., have a new truss. It is claimed that by this method of manufacture a truss is provided which will be more comfortable than the one in ordinary use and better able to adapt itself to the various movements of the body, especially if these are of a sudden character. The truss is fitted with a hip-joint regulator by means of which the pressure is increased or diminished as required and with a soft hollow shell pad perforated for ventilation. The Truss as thus completed is an efficient one.—*Lancet*, August 4th, 1894.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE report of Sir Dyce Duckworth's paper, read before the Royal British Nurses' Association on the 15th inst., will be read with interest, and we feel sure many of our readers will heartily agree with much that he said.

* * * One or two points appear to us to require special remark; speaking of the high standard of training demanded for registration by the Association, Sir Dyce Duckworth asks "What is to become of the increasing number of women who receive such prolonged and skilled training? The answer is given that they are to furnish the Matrons, Nursing Superintendents, and Ward Sisters of the future. He confessed he did not see any large field for many such women." We would suggest that these well qualified women are intended to replace in the future, in every department of nursing the sick, the enormous number of ignorant and inefficient persons, who now, after a few months' residence in a Hospital, don cap and apron, pose as trained Nurses, filch high fees from a defenceless though justly resentful public, and bring undeniable discredit upon us *en masse*.

* * * Again, the argument that because a section of the public is poor they must for all time be subjected to the tender mercies of the semi-trained, and therefore inefficient Nurse, is one which we Nurses repudiate very distinctly. We are of opinion that the experience and training of every Nurse should be *thorough* before she is permitted to undertake the care of the sick; that the lives of the dear ones of the poor should be as carefully and efficiently nursed in sickness as are the lives of the wealthy; and this will never be accomplished by the recognition of several grades of Nurses of varying skill, presumably for the wealthy, the poor, and the destitute. It is becoming recognised more every day that the care of the sick pauper within our gates is of as much account as of any more fortunate member of the community.

Reduction of Munson Typewriter prices from £21 to £12 12s., our Odell Typewriter reduced to 63s., particulars of both free.—LINK-SHELL TRUSS Co., Surgical Instrument Makers.

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