

ministers, to divide her subject into three heads, and to regard the profession of lecturing from the stand-points of: 1st, the opening it afforded to women; 2nd, the standard to be adopted; and 3rd, the humorous side of the life.

With reference to the first heading, it might be said that a fair opening was promised, but, as in the other occupations widening out to women, it was, at present, by no means a remunerative prospect. Man, having constituted himself the "predominant partner" in the game of life, had taken care to retain in his own hands the majority of the trump cards. Even now, although the remuneration for County Council lecturing was by no means high, local men in most possible cases had attempted to absorb it. And unfortunately a want of definite standard in the training of lecturers for the important posts of teachers of Nursing, Hygiene and Ambulance, led to much competition and confusion. Many women, entirely untrained, and innocent of any practical knowledge on the above subjects, were engaged by County Councils, simply because their terms were low. The untrained woman was glad to make a few stray pounds, and had no conscience as to "under-cutting." And, unfortunately, it must be confessed that many women took the attitude towards their work that it simply represented a "stop-gap" till a matrimonial opportunity occurred. Thus, all artistic sense of completeness was lost, and an injury done to women whose work is to them an honourable career. The lecturer said she had of her own knowledge a great many instances of women who had never spent a day in Hospital—and in others of women who had been for three or six months as special probationers, blossoming out in photographs as fully trained Nurses. These photographs were sent to various County Councils throughout the county, and were regarded by these simple-minded and trusting gentlemen as full and sufficient proof of the capacity on the part of these unformed and professional-looking young persons, to instruct the ignorant in the art of Nursing, to initiate them into the deeps of Hygiene, and to give a complete education in First Aid. No questions were asked as to the kind or length of training—the fact of the uniform being supposed to evidence its satisfactoriness, and thus the incompetent lecturer is let loose on the county.

Sometimes she is fairly educated, sometimes ungrammatical; she may be a gentlewoman, but more often not. These women frequently flirt with the village schoolmaster, associate on equal terms with the local shopkeepers, and so the educational value to the public is lost, from the want of training on the part of these so-called lecturers, as their social standing is lost by their want of cultivation and refinement.

An instance of the public estimation of the training required for an Ambulance Lecturer recently came under her notice. The station-master and some of the railway employées had attended a course of First Aid Lectures given by her in a village of one of the Eastern Counties. At the concluding lecture, when the arrangements for the examination were being made, the station-master came up, accompanied by an oily, somewhat grimy porter, whom he introduced as an earnest student of ambulance work.

"He already holds the St. John's certificate," said the station-master, "and he now wants to know, if he gains a County Council certificate, if that will qualify him to lecture on First Aid to the Injured?" (1)

With regard to the personal qualifications for a lecturer, Miss Kenealy thought that a good capital of health was needed to bear the exposure to weather entailed by a long winter's work, added to the fact that the lectures were frequently given in cold and badly-ventilated schoolrooms. It was also desirable to possess an infinite capacity for being patronised—as for instance, when she was told by the proprietor of a small, a very small general village store, "That of course such lectures were of no use to people of her class, but that they was excellent for the lower horders!"

Much tact was also needed to enable one to steer successfully between the Scylla and Charybdis of Church and Nonconformity, and so avoid being drawn into local cliques and jealousies.

There was one point on which all the organisers of these lectures seemed to be of one accord, and that was in extending personal kindness and hospitality towards the lecturers, which was an almost universal custom.

The humours of the situation were manifold and various, as on one occasion when she found a platform erected in a village school, with a long row of candles stuck in bottles to form "footlights"; and on another evening, when, in a spirit of opposition to technical education, no manner or kind of illumination had been provided, and she had, during the evening, to send out and purchase a pound of candles to light up the scene.

A knowledge of Hygiene would appear to be an absolute essential when she found in one small town that the little boy provided as a patient on whom to demonstrate bandaging, &c., was actually peeling from scarlet-fever!

In conclusion, Miss Kenealy urged the importance of a more definite standard of training for lecturers, and said, as a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, she was strongly of opinion that no woman should be regarded as a suitable teacher of Nursing who had not reached the three years' standard. She also urged the desirability of the formation of a public spirit to maintain a professional standard of work, and so ensure a fair remuneration for work well done by competent people. She also urged upon lecturers that they should not yield to persuasion on the part of the County Councils to hold informal examinations; and give certificates which had no real value. She said that the National Health Society was the first to introduce certificates under the Technical Instruction scheme, and that their examinations were conducted on strictly professional lines.

Mrs. Hughes said, as a lecturer of some years' standing, she was quite in accord with all the lecturer had said with regard to the unsatisfactory conditions under which County Council lecturers worked, in that the standard was so undefined. She created much interest and amusement by a spirited account of some of her experiences in the past, and stated that she was at present engaged in voluntary teaching of a Nursing and hygienic kind in some of the poorest quarters of Manchester.

Miss Homersham mentioned that a Lecturers' Union had been formed, and that it was hoped it might have beneficial results in keeping up a professional status. She said her chief difficulty was in encountering those clergy who wished to introduce their own particular form of quackery. In one village she was informed that she must not mention disinfectants, because the rector said they were valueless; that she must not mention vaccination, because he did

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