

conclusions are possible. It is not disputed that this lady was sent for a year's training to a Workhouse Infirmary—the excellence of the Institution or its management is not in question, but one year's training in such an Institution is obviously insufficient to enable any woman to obtain such a knowledge of Nursing as to render her an efficient attendant, or to entitle her to be termed a "thoroughly trained Nurse." It is, therefore, not surprising to observe that after a short experience of this particular Nurse's capabilities, her employers came to the conclusion that she was unable to fulfil her duties. The wonder is that she should have been expected to be qualified. It is passing strange that it should apparently not be known in Hull that, at the present day, it is generally agreed in professional circles that it requires at least three years' hospital training to fit a Nurse to discharge, with efficiency, the many duties devolving upon her, and that the Select Committee of the House of Lords who investigated this matter, some five years ago, arrived at the same conclusion. The Hull Institution should know that it is impossible to expect thorough efficiency from Nurses who have received only one year's training in a Workhouse Infirmary. And if sick persons in Hull desire to obtain for themselves the benefits of skilled Nursing they would do well to demand, and to see that they obtain, the services of a Registered Nurse—that is to say, of one who has had not less than three years' careful education for her responsible work.

On the other hand, we fail to understand how the defendants could be expected to take the serious responsibility of retaining in their service—that is to say, of supplying to the sick—a person of whose efficiency they evidently had grave doubts. It would be a very serious and novel departure if it were laid down as a legal axiom, on the strength of this particular case, that employers of Nurses are not entitled to cancel their engagements and to discharge them if they prove themselves to be unworthy of confidence in the fulfilment of their duties. It is possible, of course, that there were other circumstances in this case which have not been reported in the press, and that these might place a different complexion upon the decision on this particular matter. For example, the Institution was clearly in error in demanding £25 for the certificate which the Nurse had earned, and which was therefore her personal property. But, so far as the case is reported, the two great principles which we have enunciated can hardly be contested—that a Nurse cannot be efficiently educated in one year in the wards of a Workhouse Infirmary, and that with such superficial education there is

no ground for surprise if her services prove inefficient. From which we deduce the argument that no Institution should supply such workers to the public as "trained Nurses." And, on the other hand, granting the inefficiency of a half-trained Nurse, it is a matter of cardinal importance to the sick and of mere justice to employers that they should be permitted to terminate the engagement. Such cases as these deserve careful consideration, for they are compelling public attention to facts of supreme importance to the sick, and will hasten the day when only thoroughly trained Nurses will be employed by Nursing Institutions, and when the conditions of their engagement will be based on skilled service on the one side, and strict justice on the other.

Lectures on Elementary Physiology in relation to Medical Nursing.

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LECTURE II.—THE LUNGS AND THROAT.

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IN various diseases you will find the train of symptoms which denote commencing asphyxia. In cases of *Laryngitis* or inflammation of the larynx, in diphtheria, and in growths of the throat; all of which, by the swelling which they cause, causing obstruction of the breathing tube and so interfering with the passage of pure air into, and of carbonic acid gas out of, the chest. It is, therefore, in order to avoid suffocation that in such cases the operation of tracheotomy is performed. This consists of an incision in the middle line of the throat over the windpipe, and the opening of one or two rings of the trachea, through which a curved silver tube or *canula* is introduced into the air passage, and through which the patient is able to breathe easily. This operation, again, is often called for as a temporary measure, in order to save the life of a child who has drunk boiling water; the scalding of the mouth and glottis causing a rapid swelling of the throat, which obstructs the breathing. The Nursing of such cases is most important and will be described directly.

The general principles of treatment in all such cases are as simple as they are important. The danger is only due to the accumulation of carbonic acid gas in the lungs, and if this can be removed, the patient will be saved from asphyxia.

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