

discipline and oversight, day after day; week after week, and year after year, with at most three weeks' intermission in every twelve months. That is the character of a nurse's training, and those who can dimly realise what it means will be fain to admit that any woman who can complete three years of such arduous bodily and mental labour must possess not only a sense of devotion to duty in a degree uncommon even amongst women, but also moral qualities which will render her as unlike the Nurse *à la mode* depicted by Lady Priestley as any two human beings could possibly be. Then, when the thoroughly trained nurse has completed her hospital education, her future life is by no means the bed of roses the article would lead the casual reader to believe.

If she remains in the hospital service, she receives a very small salary and has great responsibility and continuous hard work. If she joins an institution and is sent out to the public as a private nurse, she will receive as small a salary as the managers of the commercial undertaking can persuade her to work for. If she is fortunate enough to be admitted to the Registered Nurses' Society, or to one of the other co-operations of nurses, she will obtain her own fees, less a small discount to cover the working expenses; she may then make about £100 per annum, and thus she may be able to save something from her earnings to provide for future necessities and old age. In the other cases, as a rule, it is quite impossible for private nurses to save anything, and if the niggardly 'guinea a week,' which Lady Priestley desires them to receive, were all their remuneration and bounded their financial outlook, the workhouse would be the only refuge for them when unable any longer to work. Because it must be obvious to the least thoughtful that private nurses are not kept constantly employed. When they leave one case it may be some days, or even a week or two, before they are sent to another; and during that time the non-institution nurse—that is to say, the only one who would get even 'one guinea a week'—has to pay for her board and lodging; and very often such women expend, in their times of enforced idleness, on the bare necessities of life, nearly as much as they have earned in the previous weeks of working."

It is an elementary principle that a good article is rarely cheap; and in sickness, when not only the comfort of the patient, but even his life or death, may depend upon the carefulness, the obedience, and the experienced devotion of the nurse, it is surely poor economy to pay a few shillings less and obtain an inefficient assistant for the doctor. In the care of the sick, whether medical or nursing, the best is the most economical, as well as the most satisfactory.

It involves a fact of the greatest importance for the public that nursing has 'emerged into a science.' Because it implies that medicine, surgery, and obstetrics, whose handmaiden nursing is, are sciences, and that, instead of the 'tomahawk,' knowledge now affords other equally true and unerring remedies for sickness. It is the immense advances which have been made during the last forty years, in the discovery of the causes and conditions of disease, by the microscope and other modern instruments of precision; in the prevention of illness associated with the antiseptic system; and in the prevention of suffering associated with anæsthesia, which have so greatly enhanced the value and the success of medical efforts. But as medical skill and knowledge increased, it was seen clearly that there was an important link missing, that it was not sufficient for the most able directions to be given for the treatment of disease unless those directions were faithfully and precisely followed and carried out. It was manifestly impossible for the busy doctor with many patients to devote his whole time to one. Sairey Gamp could neither comprehend, nor could she be trusted to execute, instructions involving the use of the thermometer and other instruments, the administration to the patient—and not to herself—of stimulants, or even of medicines, in exact doses upon which life may often depend. Thus the laws of evolution called into existence a nurse trained to carry out with efficiency the many methods employed in the modern treatment of disease. And then, knowledge still advancing, the doctor realised more keenly the need of knowing the condition of his patient between his visits, of an accurate and scientific description of symptoms which would appear probably quite unimportant to those who only possessed 'the mere instinct of domestic love and duty,' and so would either not be reported to him at all, or else would be recounted in so garbled a manner as to be valueless for his guidance. The skilled practitioner now knows that his treatment must be adapted to meet the ever-varying phases of disease, and that symptoms occur in most patients which are veritable danger signals, which require knowledge and experience to discriminate and observe correctly, and the early recognition of which may mean, especially in children and in surgical cases, all the difference between recovery and death. So it requires no prophetic instinct to foretell that, as medical men grow more and more acquainted with the mysteries of disease, and therefore with the measures necessary for the restoration to health of those who are sick, they will require, and will demand more and more emphatically, that the assistant to whom they entrust the execution of their instructions, and to whom they look for

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