

## Annotations.

### SELF-INTEREST.

IT is of the utmost importance to all who would look back upon a satisfactory and successful nursing career, to have a definite goal to aim at, and to make straight for that goal, turning neither to the right nor to the left. And yet—how many nurses if they were questioned as to their hopes and aspirations, or their views as to the future, would be able to explain them? and this for the very obvious reason that they have none. The chief desires of very many nurses of the present day are apparently short hours, no menial work, a comfortable bed, good food, and high pay. As to the future, they think and care nothing, unless it may be in a happy-go-lucky fashion to assume that when they can no longer provide for themselves, "somebody" will do so for them. The nurse who passes through a training during which she imbibes these ideas, is not, however, made of the stuff which will win for her the respect, and the deserved success which her predecessors of ten and twelve years ago commanded. They had long hours, many discomforts and much hard work, and in consequence the training schools in those days turned out women who were resourceful, self-reliant, and inured to hardships, qualifications which stood them in good stead in their subsequent career. When a nation, or a calling, becomes luxurious, and self-seeking, there is but one step to its downfall, as is abundantly proved by history, and it behoves the nurses of the present day to beware, if history is not once more to repeat itself. They must understand, if they would be successful, that real and abiding success entails self-sacrifice, that their own personal self-interest is inseparable from the interests of their profession, and that it is necessary that they should consider their corporate as well as their individual well-being if they desire independence of action and liberty of thought in the future, and also if they do not desire to be the scorn and derision of succeeding generations, and a bye-word for all that is mean and selfish, and, therefore, despicable.

### THE POLICY OF "HUSH."

MR. ST. VINCENT MERCIER, late Secretary of St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the

Skin, recently sued the trustees of that Hospital for a sum of money which he alleged to have been promised to him, and for three months' salary in lieu of notice. While in the witness box, however, he admitted that he had taken from the Hospital sums amounting to £140, and that he was dismissed for this reason. The jury eventually found a verdict for the defendants. Nine years ago attention was drawn to what he then named the "St. John's Hospital Scandal" by the Editor of *Truth*, and recent events have certainly proved that there was ample justification for the remarks then made. It would have been for the interests of the Hospital in question if the statements made by *Truth* had been fully investigated at that time, but Hospital Committees are for some reason proverbially blind where the delinquencies of Secretaries are concerned. We desire to point out that since we undertook the Editorship of the NURSING RECORD four years ago, this is the sixth instance of dishonesty upon the part of a Hospital Secretary which has been brought before our notice. We do not think it reflects credit upon the Hospital Committees concerned that this is the first case which has been made public, and that only because the incriminated Secretary himself inadvisedly brought an action against the trustees of the Hospital.

### CONSIDERATE KINDNESSES.

THE Hon. Sydney Holland, chairman of the London Hospital, has sent a message of thanks to the residents in and around Maidstone for their exceeding kindness to the hospital nurses. "Every letter from them," he writes, "tells us of some thoughtful act—a drive in a carriage, gardens thrown open, presents of fruit and flowers—coming from those who have these privileges to offer: the free use of the swimming baths, so kindly accorded to them; and of their being stopped in their walks and thanked by poor folk. I wish to assure all those who have been so appreciative of their work that the nurses are really grateful. The arrangements made by Mr. Monckton and others have been considerate and thoughtful, and it has been a pleasure to our nurses to try and show their gratitude by giving to Maidstone the very best work they can. No work is hard if those for whom one is working are appreciative."

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