

practical nursing and the systematic instruction of medical students in nursing details—should be acceptable to the managers of nursing schools.

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION.

Medical students must realize that the evolution of medicine and nursing has left them high and dry, no doubt on a pinnacle of scientific knowledge, but ignorant of the practical details of nursing, which were, and still are, the basis of successful general practice. They will then demand nursing, as apart from treatment, as part of their education.

#### A HAPPY RESULT.

Fortified with this knowledge they will be happier and more successful practitioners and less suspicious and jealous of the skilled and indispensable nurse, between whom and the medical profession there should be loyal and hearty co-operation for the benefit of the patient. The nurse, on the other hand, will realize that while a general knowledge of anatomy and physiology is essential to the proper performance of her work, the subjects are too vast and specialized to admit of anything more on her part. She will cease to exaggerate, for instance, the importance to herself of an accurate knowledge of peripheric impulses, and will be taught to estimate at their true importance the value of practical details as they relate to the environment and physical comfort of the patient.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE.

Theory and practice must go hand in hand if perfection in nursing is to be attained, but a nurse who can accurately name all the muscles is a perfectly useless person if she cannot make her patient's bed comfortably, or render the many little services, in the skilful performance of which the difference between trained and amateur nursing largely consists. Under existing circumstances a trained nurse is taught that inexperienced physicians and surgeons are qualified to examine her in the domestic branch of the art of nursing, and she is left practically to depreciate the essential part of her work, that is to say, its practical side.

Theory, in its place, is necessary in the education of nurses, they cannot do their work intelligently without it. The best means of giving both theory and practice due importance is by requiring probationers to pass an examination in practical nursing conducted by a trained nurse, and in the theory of medical and surgical nursing by qualified medical practitioners, as essential to certification.

## Annotations.

#### THE POSE OF THE POPINJAY.

MEDICAL scientists are beginning to realize the danger of the present filthy fashion of trailing skirts, and have solemnly examined microscopically the skirts of fashionable dames. At a scientific Congress just held in Rome Dr. Casagrandi sent into the streets some ladies attired according to the latest dictates of fashion, giving them instructions to walk about for an hour. On their return he subjected their skirts to a microscopical test, the result being that they were found to contain whole colonies of bacilli and microbes.

We doubt, however, if any amount of demonstrations on the part of "fubsie old doctors" will have any effect upon society women so long as fashion decrees that trailing skirts are "chic," and the masterpieces of Worth are sent home with these appendages. Men may rail, as they do rail, at the folly of women in adopting such an uncleanly habit, but, after all, as they plume themselves on possessing the logical faculty to the exclusion of the other sex, they will, no doubt, bear with us when we invite them to go back to primary causes, and to make therefrom logical deductions. The plain truth is that it is only the popinjay woman, that is to say, the woman who is dependent on a man for the clothes she wears, who can afford to indulge in this senseless and dirty fashion. If she earned them by her own labour she would take pains to keep them tidy and respectable. But men, be it noted, prefer, as a rule, that women should be the pampered playthings and parasites of their leisure, and object to their maintaining themselves in a self-respecting and self-dependent manner. They must therefore blame themselves that their attitude has fostered luxury, idleness, and uselessness in their womenkind. It is to the advantage of the dictators of fashion to encourage the senseless fashion of trailing skirts in the streets, for, when a 25 guinea gown has been used once or twice as a scavenger's broom, it must perforce be discarded for a new one, a necessity, which, from the tailor or dress-maker's point of view, is "good for trade." Extravagant habits must be eradicated by the inculcation of common-sense and good feeling, virtues uncommon in the votaries of fashion. The frivolity of woman originates in man's appreciation and encouragement of the vice.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)