

for a moment wherein slavery consists, it is surely in being deprived of liberty of personal action. No one acquainted with the facts of the case will be prepared to deny that in countries where slavery is practised the domestic slave is often very comfortably off. His work is not heavy, he has been a member of his master's household, and been treated with consideration from childhood, he is provided with food and clothing, and has no anxiety as to how to make ends meet. The wrong done to him is precisely that he is legislated for, and has no occasion to exercise his own judgment. His opinions must be his master's, if he wishes for personal comfort, and accordingly he develops the well-known slave characteristic of cringing servility. The same wrong is done to women in this country. They ask for liberty of thought and action, they are offered personal comfort. They ask for a voice in the management of their own affairs, they are told that it will be much less troublesome to them if these are managed for them by their male relatives, and a certain number of them, persuaded that they can most easily get their own way by flattery, wheedling, and subservience, develop forthwith the slave characteristics, and scheme and intrigue like their sisters of the harem. But there are other women, the best, and they are a growing number, who are not content with sops, who are not satisfied with stones when they ask for bread, and who know that the kindest thing their male friends can do for them is to help them to the right to think and act for themselves. Generous minded men who will do so are to be found now as they have been found in the past, and it is the business of every woman to help when possible the return to Parliament of men pledged to support woman's suffrage.

With regard to nursing legislation, we commend to nurses the words of Dr. Toogood on the subject of State Registration at the Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council: "We require legislation; the only way to get it is to worry Members of Parliament; they care nothing for us or our grievances, but they do care for their seats, and the only way to approach them is through their constituencies. . . . You have fathers, brothers, and other male encumbrances whom you can stir up to worry the member of the Division in which they live, and no Member of Parliament is insensible to the meaning of 100 or so voters requesting him to do a certain thing."

Annotations.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WEALTH.

We are glad to see that the splendid paper read by the Comte de Cardi, at the Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council, and recently printed in the *NURSING RECORD*, is arousing attention in shipping circles in Liverpool, and that the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* devotes a column of space to its discussion. That the suggestions of the Comte de Cardi that all West Coast ships carrying passengers should set aside a portion of their space as a hospital, and, further, should carry trained nurses, does not meet with the unqualified approval of those concerned in supporting the financial interests of shipowners is not surprising. It may be taken as an invariable rule that any scheme—no matter how necessary or humane the reform suggested—which affects adversely the financial interests of capitalists, will arouse opposition. Since the days when the silversmiths of Ephesus howled for two hours at the teachings of St. Paul, because as they said, "Our craft is in danger," up to the present time this has always been the case. Nevertheless, wealth entails obligations, and as enormous fortunes are made by the shipowners, it is incumbent upon them to spend a fair proportion of this in the efficient maintenance of the ships from which their wealth is derived. Personally we do not believe that it is possible in this country to make millions of pounds profit from any undertaking, except at the cost of exacting blood money, and when we see the extravagant living of many shipowners, their town and country houses, and their luxurious methods of living, it is reasonable to expect that every consideration should be shown to those whose work provides their wealth, and that when these traders return home sick, invalided, perhaps dying, they should be provided with the comforts and alleviations which are obtainable at home by the poorest of the poor. In our opinion whenever profits rise above a certain point some of the surplus should be devoted to bettering the condition of those who make these profits for the capitalist, and in no way can such be better used than by providing for their care in sickness. Our contemporary says "the demand for special hospital accommodation and the presence of trained nurses, the expense to be borne by the shipowner, is one which could not, of course, be entertained for a moment."

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