

fulfils the duties specially incumbent on her, without exciting the respect, affection, admiration—aye, even worship—of man; whilst on the other hand, if she forsakes her border, and enters upon duties—however laudable the desire—for which her temperament is unfitted, and which experience shews to be absolutely unnecessary, she must not be surprised if her action is animadverted upon to her serious disadvantage, and in the end disasters arise which have been unforeseen. The period held up to us, even at the present time, as an ideal period in the relationship of the sexes one to another, is called "the days of chivalry," and the characteristic of those days was the shielding and defending of women, and the homage—reverential homage—paid to them. Men kept within their border and proved themselves men in the true acceptation of the word, and women did not for a moment consider they were the "inferior" sex, or that they were acting in a derogatory manner by keeping within their own domain, and only fulfilling such duties as custom, experience and their own innate modesty pointed out.

Holding these views, I contend that there has been a sad departure on the part of some women, from what I believe to be their rights and their calling, and there was a want of wisdom in opening the ranks of the medical profession in response to the mistaken outcry of a few of their sex.

Then it is not politic. Apart from the above views, it is not politic to adopt innovations which are not proved to be a necessity. It is not politic to legalise that which is contrary to natural law and custom. It is not politic to place a woman on a standard that True Wisdom has not designed for her. It is not politic to alter the framework of human economy, notwithstanding specious arguments are presented for the purpose, and to do so is neither necessary wise nor politic.

Comments and Replies.

Miss E. Gardner.—We are always glad to discuss practical nursing points of general interest in the columns of this journal.

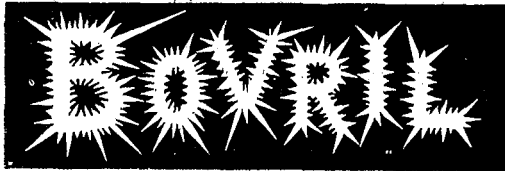
Two Years' Certificate.—We sympathise with your disappointment, but, at the same time we must point out that the three years' standard of training is now so generally accepted that having only a two years' certificate will disqualify you for work upon all the best co-operations, as well as for most public appointments. Co-operations have their duty to the public, and this certainly includes maintaining the recognised standard of training, and only supplying them with nurses who come up to this standard. The public have certainly a right to expect that their interests shall be thus guarded, and any institution which adopts a lower standard inevitably suffers in loss of prestige.

Certificated Nurse.—You will find experience in special branches of nursing very useful to you if you intend to take up private nursing. Fever training, and the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society, are specially desirable. Apply to the Matrons of any of the fever hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, with regard to the first, and for midwifery training to the Matrons of the Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, and of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, with regard to terms and vacancies. The course is usually three months, but experience subsequent to obtaining the certificate of the L.O.S. is of great value.

Country Subscriber.—We are always glad to consider contributions with a view to insertion. A stamped envelope should be enclosed for the return of the manuscript if not accepted.

Miss Sybil Brown.—A form of application for admission to the *Nursing Directory*, issued under the authority of the Matrons' Council would be sent to you on application to the Editor, *Nursing Directory*, 11, Adam Street, Strand.

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