

tone of a nursing school permeates downwards from the head, and that where the Matron is self seeking and lacking in courtesy, the Ward Sisters out bicycling in the early morning hours, when they should be attending to their professional duties, it is not likely that probationers will develop a high standard of unselfish devotion to duty, or of courtesy in their personal relations with the public, and with one another. A strong opinion was expressed that the Matrons' Council was the body best fitted to deal with the subject of Nursing Ethics, and that it might reasonably be asked both to bring the subject before its members, and also to advise nurses how they might attain to a higher standard of ethics than that which at present exists.

Some responsibility was also laid to the account of those who select the Matrons of our training schools, and the opinion was expressed that until Committees of Hospital cease to allow the influence of a well cut costume, and a prepossessing personal appearance, to outweigh professional qualifications, that the claims of some of the most suitable candidates for appointments as superintendents of training schools will be passed over, and that Committees would be well advised to consult nursing experts as to nursing appointments in the same way as they consult medical men as to medical appointments.

It was also pointed out that Matrons might inculcate the importance of maintaining a high code of ethics, in season and out of season, but that if their hearers were irresponsible no good result would ensue. That it is impossible to pour out of a pitcher what is not in it, and therefore that the duty of a Matron to her profession begins with the wise selection of probationers, and the courageous rejection or elimination of those who do not give evidence of their recognition of the importance of observing a high standard of ethics. The question which has been brought forward by the St. John's House Debating Society is a most important one, and might usefully be discussed by Matrons in Council.

The position taken up by Drs. McCullagh, Ellis, and Wardle in connection with the Auckland District Nursing Association, is as untenable as it is extraordinary. It appears that these gentlemen were not re-elected on to the Committee of the Association, as their non-attendance was regarded as indicating a desire to be released from attendance, and took umbrage thereat. They have now written to the Committee to say that "owing to the decision come to at the last general meeting, by which the medical practitioners in the town had no voice in the election or authority over the nurses, they (the doctors) were compelled to refuse to sanction the services

of the district nurses to any of their patients." In a further letter they said that had they wished to be released from their duties on the Committee they would have said so.

The Reverend E. Price said the first letter of the doctors was a most improper one. It was practically saying "We are not elected and you shan't nurse." The medical men of Auckland do not seem to recognise the difference between the personal and the professional control of nurses. With the former they have no concern, the latter is still in their own hands, and if their directions as to the treatment and care of their patients is not carried out to their satisfaction any representations they may make to the Committee would be sure to receive all consideration. For the rest, considering the temper of mind evidenced in their letter, the Committee will understand that so far as their personal control is concerned, it is undesirable to put the nurses under absolute medical domination. The autocracy of these doctors has gone just a step too far, and to say that because their *amour propre* has been wounded the sick poor of Auckland shall have no nursing, is to place their personal aggrandisement before the welfare of their patients.

The prevailing conditions in the out-patient department at the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth, have been much discussed of late, one of the sub-committees characterising them as "indecent and revolting." It appears that patients of both sexes are assembled in the casualty ward, the curtain separating the sexes being described as "ragged and inadequate," and the conversations between doctors and patients being audible frequently to other patients, who also have to pass one another when clothes are disarranged and wounds exposed. It is surely time that such conditions were amended. In many of our hospitals the outpatient departments are now admirably arranged. At the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, for instance, we were recently greatly pleased with a visit to this department, but in others there is still much to be done before the arrangements can be described as adequate.

A meeting of the Council of the Scottish branch of the Colonial Nursing Association was held recently at Edinburgh. Lady Balfour, of Burleigh, president of the branch, occupied the chair. The hon. secretary (Mr. A. A. Gor'on, C.A.), submitted the draft of the second annual report of the Council, which stated that it might now be claimed that the work of the Association had been started throughout Scotland. After referring to the meeting, held in Edinburgh last autumn, which was attended by the Colonial Secretary and Mrs. Chamberlain, it was stated

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