

She says: "Miss Johnston brings against nurses some terrible charges, of which 'talking shop, without a decent regard to the suitability of time and place,' is so comparatively slight that it seems almost out of place in the long catalogue of the more serious accusations." "Few men and women," says Miss Stewart, "adopt a profession solely from the highest motives; a very large majority do so because it is necessary for them to earn a living. Nurses are no exception. There are many reasons why the daughters of the higher middle class should wish to leave home: a stepmother is not an uncommon factor, an unsuccessful love affair is not unknown, although it is a rarer reason than is generally supposed; but the main reason is the desire for independence. To the lower classes nursing offers so many advantages as to create no surprise that they crowd into the profession when possible.—No doubt somewhere in the minds of the candidates there hovers an idea of doing good to others as well as providing an independence for themselves, but it is nebulous in the minds of the majority and rarely expressed by any; and it develops later into conscientiousness in the discharge of their duties."

Miss Stewart goes on to say that nurses are recruited from all classes, that even in the large London hospitals a housemaid may be found sitting next to a baronet's daughter, and all gradations of rank between these two may be found at the same table. That being thus representative of their sex, "their failings must surely be such as apply equally to a majority of their sex without reference to a particular profession. If, therefore, they are inconsiderate, unsympathetic, brutal, it must be that these characteristics appertain to women. It does not seem possible that three, or even four, years spent in the worst managed training school conceivable could generate them. That Miss Johnston is generalising from inadequate knowledge is not an unreasonable inference, and," she adds, "I will venture to assert that she is mistaken, and that nurses as a class are neither brutal nor unsympathetic. As evidence in support of this statement, I may point out that the demand for trained nurses is increasing, which would hardly be the case if they were the creatures that Miss Johnston depicts."

Dealing with the charges made against hospitals, Miss Stewart asks if these have any more foundation than those Miss Johnston brings against nurses, and says "I think not. Nor can I agree with Miss Johnston in her estimate of the result of three years' hard but interesting work and strict discipline on nurses. At the close of their career in hospitals they have for the most part developed into upright, conscientious, self-respecting women, ready and fit to take their place in the world as respected citizens. Some, no doubt, do not improve, but my experience is that their number is wonderfully small." Miss Stewart then shows the present chaotic condition of nursing organisation and says that "the more thoughtful among the profession are alive to the evil of this state of things, and are eager to obtain some legal status for the efficiently trained nurse." She draws attention to the association recently formed with this object in view, and suggests that "those who, like Miss Johnston, feel the need of reform to be so urgent will no doubt help forward the measure."

In conclusion she says: "Nurses in the past have

suffered from being too highly thought of, and therefore too much has sometimes been expected of them. They are not angels, and certainly not the demoralized creatures Miss Johnston paints them. All I claim for them is that they are, for the most part, hardworking womanly women, with the faults that belong to other women, but with the better part of their nature and character developed and strengthened by contact with much suffering, the exercise of much self-denial, and a cheerful submission to duty."

## Preparations, Inventions, etc.

### PES DUPLEX HOSE.

It is of great moment to nurses to obtain durable stockings, for there are no members of the community who are more continuously on their feet, and whose foot wear is put to a severer test. We have therefore great pleasure in directing attention to the special feature of the Pes Duplex Hose, in which the ankle and entire foot are doubled by a new process. The effect of this is, of course, to greatly increase the strength, and consequently the durability, of the stockings in all the parts most subjected to hard wear, while this duplication is carried out so cleverly that there is no appreciable increase in thickness in the foot and ankle of the stocking. These Hose may be had of all the leading drapers in plain or ribbed cashmere, and are worthy of the consideration of all nurses.

### DIABETIC FOODS.

We have on various occasions called the attention of trained nurses to some of the valuable food specialities produced by Messrs. A. Callard and Co., of 65, Regent Street, London, W. The dietary of patients is so much left now in the hands of trained Nurses, the medical practitioner ordering the principles to be observed in the diet, and leaving them to carry out the details and obtain and administer the requisite foods, that it is of increasing importance that Nurses should be aware where they can obtain the most up-to-date and useful articles of diet. They should know therefore that Messrs. Callard and Co. have issued a valuable little pamphlet enumerating the various excellent preparations free from starch and sugar which are produced by this firm, and which whilst most valuable for the dyspeptic and diabetic are in the highest degree nutritious and appetising, qualities which we regret to say are conspicuously absent in the food preparations of some other firms. As it is in these complaints that the appetite is often most fastidious and difficult to please, it is often a matter of the first importance that the foods which are suitable for the patient should also be agreeable both in appearance and taste. And in these particulars the Callard preparations are *facile princeps*.

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