

their waste-paper baskets with *débris* of "feasts" that might be pardonable in half-fed schoolboys?

I do not wish to deprive nurses of any reasonable pleasure, nor even of mild and occasional self-indulgence. I merely maintain that it is the duty, and that it is easily within the power, of the ordinary rank-and-file nurse with her salary of from £30 to £40 to provide for old age, and always to keep from £5 to £25 in the bank, spending it when she must, replacing it as soon as she can.

The extravagance complained of has not always the same root; sometimes it is pure inexperience and thoughtlessness, sometimes physical self-indulgence, often moral cowardice that will not stand out against a foolish custom and fears to be accounted mean. If only these young people could be made to realise that the most direct road to genuine meanness lies through extravagance, and that extravagance in a working woman generally means frittering away money and having nothing to show for it but frippery and sick headaches!

It is not the so-called "mean" person who never has a shilling to give in charity or to bestow on a servant who has "obliged" her for half a year, who begs postage stamps, letter-paper, ink, labels, boot buttons, thread and needles, who lets her equals in age and position pay her bridge tolls and tram fares, who borrows money and does not repay it, or repays it grudgingly, reluctantly, little by little, and after an unreasonable lapse of time. No; as we are all aware, it is the so-called generous, open-handed persons who do these things, the so-called mean ones who suffer them, and the very few independent spirits who cry out against them.

Nurses are by no means the only culprits; one hears exactly the same complaints of teachers, art students, clerks, and shop assistants, but they are the persons whom it is our duty to guide and help into the path of strict personal economy, by which alone working women can reach the necessary goal of independence and the desired one of generosity.

In addition to district nursing routine, and the elements of the sciences that have a direct bearing upon it, every probationer must be taught how to keep her books, and the importance of accuracy and a sufficiency of detail must be insisted on. Not only is a district nurse expected, perhaps after the lapse of many months, to be able to answer such questions as "How long was A. Z. on your book, how often did you visit her, and why did you cease doing so?" but she may be asked, "How many sailors' wives did you attend between given dates? How many policemen's families? How many miners'? How many cases of pneumonia did you nurse to a successful issue last winter?" On the prompt and accurate answers to questions of this kind, large subscriptions to the association and increased powers of usefulness may depend. The nurse should never burden her memory with details far better committed to writing, and much more convincing to everyone if written

in the regular course of business and not to prove some special point.

Probationers should also be taught to take a practical interest in the financial state of the local association. First, by exercising due forethought and economy in the purchase and use of drugs, wool, lint, &c., and by buying pure carbolic and other antiseptics and disinfectants in large quantities and mixing them herself to the required strength. Secondly, by making all the patients who are able to do so provide their own dressings, ointments, sponges, &c. Thirdly, by leaving a formal request for a contribution at the houses of all but the very poorest patients at the termination of a case. Fourthly, by readiness to explain the objects and methods of the association, by willingness to accept contributions, and by business-like promptness in acknowledging them.

The probationer must also thoroughly understand the management of her district cupboard, know exactly what it ought to contain, and how to direct the kind intentions of those willing to help her with supplies of needful articles.

(To be continued.)

The Guild of St. Luke.

The Guild of St. Luke, which is the Medical Practitioners' Religious Guild in this country, held its Annual Service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Monday last, when the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Southwark. The music was rendered by the choir of 300 voices provided by the London Gregorian Choral Association. The choir proceeded by way of the south transept chanting the hymn "Christ is made the sure foundation" to the west door, where it was joined by the medical members of the Guild in their robes, the lady doctors wearing mortar-boards in addition. The medical practitioners then preceded the choir up the centre aisle eastwards, taking their seats under the dome. The Rev. J. S. Childs Clarke, Minor Canon, intoned the service, and the lessons were read by Rev. T. W. Belcher, M.D., and Dr. Lewis Lewis respectively.

The Bishop took as his text Eph. iv. 12, "For the edifying of the body of Christ," and said that his hearers were taking part in that service to manifest the unity between the healing of the body and of the soul. No wise physician would neglect to take into consideration the spiritual side of a patient's nature; nor would a physician of the soul in dealing with a complex sin, which it was his duty to eradicate, leave out the mysterious part played by the body in the mortal combat which the soul was for ever waging with the unseen powers of evil. Thus the priest of medicine and the priest of religion stood shoulder to shoulder in fighting these forces.

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