

said as you *wasn't* to do that, Dad!" he can generally be left out of consideration.

The qualities that we are most anxious probationers should possess, or develop, or acquire, are kindness, tact, cheerfulness, even temper, conscientiousness, concentration, accuracy, despatch, power of picking out essentials and holding on to them in spite of all opposition, active or passive. We also desire that they should have quiet manners, pleasantly-modulated voices, and great deftness and neat-handedness, while a certain amount of ambition is an excellent stimulus.

What must the Superintendent do to implant or encourage these virtues? First, she must try to bring all possible good influences to bear on the probationers; and, secondly, she must shield them during their period of training, not merely from positively bad influences, but from the very sight of grudging and indifferent work. On board training-ships in the Navy, only officers believed to be of the highest character are employed, and this rule is carried out with regard to the most subordinate of the schoolmasters, and even to the ordinary seamen. Furthermore, any offence which on other vessels would simply entail a reprimand or some trifling punishment, brings instant dismissal from the ship.

In order to keep the probationers under the best influences, only staff nurses of high professional attainments and excellent moral character should be employed, and one at least among them should be a woman of refinement and varied culture; there should be a constant supply of good and attractive literature, and innocent amusements should be provided. If practicable, an ethical lecture should be given once a month by some well-qualified outsider, and the Superintendent should see that every probationer has ample opportunity to attend the services of her own church.

The Superintendent, with the touch of true motherliness in her, will not lose sight of her pupils after their period of training is over, but will remember to inquire for them, send messages, and occasionally find time to write to them, especially during the first two years after they leave her. In every way she will try to make them understand that all that concerns them continues to be a matter of real interest to her, that their letters are always welcome, their names often mentioned, their memories still so green that even their little fads and foibles are not forgotten, and that if ever they care to spend their monthly holiday at the Home, or a week of their summer vacation, they will be most welcome guests.

As time goes on, the ties gradually loosen; the probationer first learns to stand on her own feet, and then in her turn becomes the counsellor and helper of a younger generation; but the Superintendent must always be the first to recollect and the last to forget that the ties really exist and can be used to excellent purpose.

One word in conclusion: We are all apt to have a single fixed type of excellence in our minds, and to think our pupils failures unless they conform to it. Let us take to heart the words of Hermann's mother when his father complained—as fathers will when blessed with a steady-going son—that he was something of a muff:—

“Wir können die Kinder nach unseren Sinne nicht formen;

So wie Gott sie uns gab, so muss man sie haben und lieben,

Sie erziehen aufs Beste und Jeglichen lassen gewähren,  
Denn der Eine hat die, die Anderen andere Gaben;  
Jeder braucht sie, und Jeder ist doch nur auf eigene

Weise  
Gut und glücklich.”

“We cannot fashion our children to suit our own fancy;

As God gave them, we must take them and love them,

Bring them up the best way we can, and let each follow his own bent;

For one has these gifts, and another has different ones;

Everyone lacks some, and everyone can only in his own way be good and happy.”

### The Margaret Huxley Prize.

Last week a ceremony of interest to all past and present members of the nursing staff of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, took place at the Nurses' Home in Lower Mount Street.

The “Margaret Huxley” prize was awarded for the first time, and presented by Miss Huxley, to Nurse Kathleen Haire, who has worked at the hospital for five years, and is now leaving for an appointment in Belfast. This prize was instituted in 1902, and endowed with a sum of money subscribed by old Dun's nurses as a mark of their esteem of Miss Huxley's work during a period of eighteen years as Lady Superintendent of the Hospital. The prize is to be awarded every two years. It takes the form of a brooch, the coat of arms and motto of the hospital, “*Celer atque fidelis*,” in enamel and gold, and the words “Margaret Huxley Prize” beneath. On the back is engraved the name of the winner and “for excellence.” The names of the winners are also preserved on a parchment Roll of Honour, which hangs in the Nurses' Sitting-room for all to see. In the course of her short address to Nurse Haire, Miss Huxley also spoke to those who can look forward to winning the prize in the future, and asked them to take a high ideal, to try to live up to it, that, by their quiet, dignified bearing they may inspire confidence and respect for their calling.

A very pleasant evening was spent. The probationers had arranged a programme of music and dancing, and it was a great pleasure to all to welcome Miss Huxley and the many past nurses who had been able to accept the invitation of the present

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)