

sense of their personal responsibility for the proper care of even the smallest thing entrusted to them from the time they enter the hospital until they leave it as 'full-fledged nurses.' In very few instances, indeed, can the young woman who deliberately cuts open the sleeves of gowns, burns catheters and stomach tubes, or destroys hot-water bottles be trusted to take proper care of anything so precious as the lives of her fellowmen and women.

"We have known cases in which these young women have proven not to be wilfully *mean* but just careless; and sometimes an earnest heart to heart talk with them does much to awaken consciences that are not dead but sleeping all too soundly, surely, for the safety or well-being of either their patients or the hospital appurtenances. There are others again in whom destructive habits began to develop while they were yet in the nursery. The tendency was not checked when they were found cutting sections out of their dresses or pinafores, tearing holes in the window curtains, and so forth; through girlhood it grew, and when young womanhood dawned they were found to value nothing belonging to either others or themselves, and so they come into the training-school. Remonstrances are unheeded, and they not only destroy hospital property themselves, but encourage others on to follow in their footsteps.

"These are leaves from experience. How vividly some old experiences were recalled as the editorial item in the March issue was perused. Times were when rubber goods were left out of doors to be 'snowed under' and destroyed; hot-water bottles stowed away unemptied in dressing-case drawers, their stoppers rusted in; ice-caps similarly ill-treated; enemas containing oil and turpentine given from rubber fountain syringes, notwithstanding the fact that proper vessels for that purpose were provided, and so one might go on enumerating. Nurses guilty of such misdemeanours usually do not stop at these. They are the nurses who never take care of their patients, or do anything else as it should be done unless the head nurse is continually at their heels. They, too, are the nurses who 'do not see any sense in all this fuss about asepsis' in caring for surgical cases; who think that guarding against crumbs and wrinkles under bed-ridden patients is 'just too silly for anything.' The thousand and one things that go to make up the vast difference between the well-trained and the badly-trained nurse are 'too trivial,' in their opinion, 'to trouble one's head over remembering.' No matter how hard the superintendent tries these nurses can never be taught to see that in caring for the sick there are no 'trivial' matters. If one musters up all the patience and forbearance possible under the circum-

stances, all their shortcomings may be borne with and the hospital at last graduate them.

"What then? Are they any credit to the hospital, the diploma of which they possess? Not one in a thousand times. Sometimes their diploma obtains for them a hospital position, but what hospital could live under their mismanagement? In private work they run a short course, indeed, and only too often the harassed woman who tried her best to make something of them during their training-school days must bear the blame for their extravagant and other bad habits; but seldom are they traced back to their proper source. Someone has aptly said: 'Give me a child the first ten years of its life and you may have it thereafter.' The habits and principles impressed upon us during our early years are surely going to rule our later lives to a greater or less extent. Young women enter our training-schools between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five, when all their habits and principles are well grounded. If after six months of fair, generous, unprejudiced, prayerful trial they fail to come up to the standard, they should be asked to remove to a field of labour where human lives are not at stake. Our profession is not honoured by the addition of such recruits."

It certainly is not, but it is these failures which constitute a tremendous danger to the public, for once they have "removed" themselves from the control of ward work, they straightway either work on their own or hire themselves out to unscrupulous "farmers" and victimise the unprotected public.

Speaking of the relations of nurse and doctor *Una* says: "The medical and nursing professions have been called into existence for one and the same end, viz., the alleviation of human suffering. In the pursuit of this common object each may always be a noble calling, though not necessarily a lucrative occupation. Joined as they thus are in alliance against a common foe, their effectiveness depends not only upon their individual skill, but possibly even more upon the manner in which they fulfil their mutual obligations."

After detailing the obligations of the nurse to the doctor, our contemporary goes on to say that the obligations of the doctor to the nurse are no less binding. "Recognising in trained nursing a sister profession, it is only in circumstances of dire necessity that he can accept the aid of the untrained—to do otherwise is to be inconsistent, and to be neglectful of the strong weapon against disease which his profession has been at such pains to forge. Thus careful in his selection, he should be no less careful in safeguarding the nurse's position and authority, and he should consider it part of his duty to impress upon patient and friends the value and reliability of her assistance. If he cannot conscientiously give this assurance, the fault lies in his choice."

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