

that a democracy acquires the moral stature and the intellectual development of a full and generous human life. To ignore the issues which politics present, to be indifferent to the welfare of those whose fate it decides, is to live a life which is not the best possible in that it is shorn of great social responsibilities. It is to this deprivation which we condemn a woman by refusing her the vote. The best and the ablest of the sex are not, perhaps, affected. They can always exert at least a personal influence and indulge a private sympathy. It is the average woman who feels that society has put a bar to her thinking and her activities. She acquiesces, and her whole development suffers. The average unoriginal girl grows up with the knowledge that she belongs to a legally inferior sex, and her independence, her courage, and her outlook on life are stunted and limited by that knowledge. The average commonplace boy grows up with a corresponding sense of his own superiority, which makes for arrogance and egoism. While society and the law authorise these early prejudices, no propaganda and no education will ever quite remove their subtle and permanent influence upon the growth and conduct of men as well as of women."

Compare the attitude of mind of this just man with that of Dr. Comyns Berkeley, evident in his savage attack in the recent issue of the *Nurses' Journal* on the nurse members who have rightly opposed the latest ukase of the R.B.N.A. caucus, of which he is the spokesman. We ask you, is it more demoralising to submit to be bullied *vis à voce* and in print, by men of Dr. Berkeley's crude and uncultured calibre, or to take part in work asking for legislation to obtain power to judge and act for ourselves and to protect nurses as a class from the domination of men of his type? There is but one answer. It is the *duty* of every self-respecting nurse to work, so that the indignities to which the nurse members of the R.B.N.A. have been subjected for years shall be impossible.

Miss C. A. Aikens, the very talented associate editor of the *National Hospital Record*, has just published in book form "Hospital House-keeping," price 1.25 dols. We learn that this work is being widely bought in the States. Although housekeeping in America and in England must necessarily differ, yet we should advise those responsible for training-school libraries to add Miss Aikens' book to the list for 1906. We have much to learn in labour-saving systems, and also in dietetics, from the United States.

H.H. the Sultan of Zanzibar has shown his appreciation of the services of Miss Brewerton, Matron of the Hospital of the Universities Mission, during the plague by presenting the hospital with a horse and carriage, which will be of great service to the patients as well as the staff.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



At a meeting convened by the house committee of the Westminster Hospital to receive a report from a sub-committee upon the financial state of the medical school and its relation to the hospital, it was recommended that the governors should be asked to open a separate subscription for the sole benefit of the school, and, if possible, make an endowment fund, and to grant to the house committee a discretionary power to allocate for the support of the medical school a fixed proportion of their contributions. Further, they asked gentlemen interested in medical education to give a separate subscription for the school. The sub-committee understood that this mode of dealing with the matter would have the support of the executive of the King's Fund. This plan has been adopted at the London and Middlesex Hospitals.

At the annual meeting of governors and subscribers of Queen Charlotte's Hospital held recently, Sir Samuel Scott, M.P., presiding, the report stated that 1,560 women had been admitted to the hospital during the past year, and 1,969 had been attended and nursed in their own homes. The ordinary expenditure had amounted to £6,168, while the ordinary income was £4,886 only. The friends and relations of the late Lord Hardwicke (who was chairman for over six years) had contributed £1,000 to found a bed in his memory. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, stated that the committee had acquired additional premises for an extension of the Nurses' Home, and they earnestly appealed for funds towards the sum of £10,000 to enable them to carry out this necessary enlargement and pay for the recent additions to the hospital.

Passers down Holborn recently cannot fail to have had their attention arrested by the fine new projecting clock on the premises of Messrs. Thomas Wallis and Co., Limited, at Holborn Circus. The clock is provided with the most modern scientific method for ensuring the constant indication of exact Greenwich meantime, and Messrs. Wallis have performed a work of public utility by providing so useful an ornament in this busy thoroughfare.

The Mayor of Newport, Councillor Shepard, presided at the annual meeting of the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital at Newport on Monday. On the motion of Mr. M. Maybrick, the meeting decided to proceed at once with the second part of the hospital improvement scheme, comprising provision of an entirely new out-patients' department and isolation wards at a cost of about £5,000, about half of which will be taken from invested capital of £35,000.

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