

my respect for these George Washingtons among instruments.

I wonder if it is too much to hope that some day, in place of one of the numerous ologies, a girl may learn just a little simple nursing during her last term at school; not enough to make her imagine herself a fully-fledged Florence Nightingale, but enough to prevent her from making a complete fool of herself in any small emergency. Because whatever her position may be, a woman is always liable to be called upon to give help or advice in cases of slight illness, and will often be regarded by helpless men as a high authority on the subject, just because she wears a petticoat.

JESSIE HARVEY.

King Edward the Seventh's Coronation National Fund for Nurses in Ireland.

The quarterly meeting of the above society was held at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 11th inst.

Andrew Beattie, Esq., D.L., presided. There were also present:—Sir Andrew Reed, K.C.B.; Sir William Thomson, C.B., M.D.; Marcus Tertius Moses, Esq., J.P.; Miss Kelly, Lady Superintendent Steevens Hospital, President of the Irish Nurses' Association; Miss Lamont, Lady Superintendent Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute; Miss Shuter, Lady Superintendent Royal City of Dublin Hospital; Miss K. Balfe, and Richard Dowse, Esq., B.L., Hon. Secretaries; and Miss M. E. MacDonnell, Secretary.

Applications for membership from fourteen nurses were considered and accepted.

An application for assistance having been made by one of the Nurse Members, the Council, after considering the case, granted her the sum of £12.

A letter from the Countess of Aberdeen, signifying her willingness to accede to the request of the Council to become Patroness of the Society, was also read.

The annual general meeting was fixed for Monday, May 14th next, at 4 p.m.

Nurses requiring information regarding the Society are requested to apply to the Secretary, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

The Passing Bell.

We regret to record the death at the Royal Military Hospital, Wynberg, South Africa, of Sister Margaret Kendall, Q.A.I.M.N.S., daughter of the late Rev. Edward Kaye Kendall, D.C.L.

Skilled Nursing for the Middle Classes.

Dealing with the important and difficult question of "Skilled Nursing Care for the great Middle Class" the *American Journal of Nursing* says:—

"We are all agreed practically that this class of people, as Miss Riddle expressed it at the Convention in Washington, 'to which we all belong,' and which politicians say make up the backbone of the country, are entitled to the best of skill and the most intelligent care that the nursing profession can provide, and yet, after years and many discussions, the situation remains practically the same in this country.

"The rich are provided for in time of illness because they can pay; the poor are provided for because someone pays for them; but the well-to-do mechanic and the families of small-salaried clerks and professional men must get along with either no nursing at all, except what can be given by members of the family, or be cared for by untrained women—women of all kinds and classes and degrees of intelligence, too many of whom are lacking in the simple principles of good nursing to in any way fill adequately this great gap left unfiled in the present distribution of skilled nursing service.

"It is not necessary to discuss this side of the question in further detail. We are all perfectly familiar with the situation. The question is, what are we going to do about it?

"All of the questionable schools of the short-course and correspondence variety are trading upon the situation. The promoters and proprietors of such training schools can get the public ear, the public sympathy and the public money to an unlimited extent because they claim that they are training nurses especially for the poor and to supply this need. These schools are increasing all over the country; they are being supported by sentimental philanthropists on the one hand and by earnest, conscientious people who are not intelligently informed of the true motive lying back of at least the majority of such schools—the reaping of dividends. . . .

"The evil which is at the bottom of this situation is in the fixed, arbitrary, trades-union rate of charge. We hear voices clamouring that 'We do do charity; we charge our regular rate of 21 dols. or 25 dols. a week, and if we find our patients are not able to pay it we give them one or two weeks of time.'

"There is much service given to the poor by individual nurses in many places, but the giving of service does not meet the situation. It is humiliating for a self-respecting mechanic or for a bookkeeper or a high-school professor to accept charity from the nurse called in to care for his young child through a desperate case of pneumonia. We contend that the principle is wrong; that even this practice is not sufficiently universal to supply the needed nursing service to the great middle class, and that some solution of the problem must be reached by which there shall be no humiliating suggestion of charity, when an independent, reputable citizen in moderate circumstances is only able to pay 10, 12, or 15 dols. a week for the services of a skilled nurse.

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