

difficult cases, and the psychasthenics particularly, certain special qualifications are necessary. If it is possible before undertaking these, the nurse should have had some experience with the milder cases of neurasthenia or hysteria, and should have watched their treatment and recovery. She will then be prepared to undertake the more difficult cases where resourcefulness and some knowledge of the very unstable ground upon which she treads, will be required.

The nurse should not be too immature. Many of these patients come from the educated classes, and intellectual equality or even superiority on the part of the nurse, if not essential, is highly desirable. So much is expected of the nurse in the teaching, apart from the actual physical care of these patients, that, to achieve success, she must possess or acquire a certain skill and tact for the work. It is imperative that she be of strong character, and that she shall have gained full mastery of her own emotions and shall have been well educated in school and in life. As someone has said: "She must know how to make herself respected and esteemed by all: she will have authority enough to be feared, but enough good nature to make herself beloved."

Since so much must be taught the patient regarding self-control—that vexation, worry, and resentment must be cut out of their lives—it is easy to see how necessary it is that none of these vices should appear in the life of the teacher.

In winning the patient's confidence and affection great discretion must be exercised not to be drawn into too great an intimacy, fatal to the maintenance of proper guidance and control. On the other hand, the nurse must not hold herself at too great a distance and repel confidence. This is a hard matter, a difficult combination of qualities but of great importance.

There must be reciprocal confidence between the nurse and the physician and this mutual confidence must be obvious in their behaviour toward one another in the presence of the patient in order to maintain that trust of the patient in the treatment which is so essential for the cure.

In the treatment of functional nervous diseases it must be borne in mind that many patients have some slight organic trouble which aggravates the nervous and mental symptoms. It is important to remember this.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Duke of Argyll, and Prince Alexander of Teck, Chairman of the Special Appeal Committee, are making an earnest appeal for £3,000 for the Royal Waterloo Hospital, which is set in the midst of a neighbourhood where, to judge from the provisions shown in the shops, the chief food of the people is shell fish of all kinds, some of which are never seen except among the most poverty stricken. Pawnshops and less reputable places are seen at every turn. The children on the pavements are dirty and uncared for, the women look ill and careworn. The good-sized and airy wards of the hospital unfortunately only mark the fact that there is only money enough to fill the beds provided in the case of one large and one small ward only.

The Lord Mayor has decided to establish his Cripples' Home and College at the Princess Louise Hospital, Alton. For this purpose an application will be made to Parliament in the present session to bring in a Bill to authorise the transfer of the Alton Military Hospital and the lands connected with it to the Lord Mayor, either alone or in conjunction with others as trustees of Sir William Treloar's Cripples' Home and College Fund.

The Lord and Lady Mayoress are giving a reception at the Mansion House on Friday afternoon, May 24th, when a presentation will be made by the Marquis of Northampton, President of the Ragged School Union to Mr. John Kirk, Secretary of the Union since 1879.

The French Ambassador, accompanied by several members of the Embassy staff and the committee of the French Hospital in London, the hospital staff, and a number of his fellow-countrymen, recently visited Brighton, and opened the new wing of the French convalescent home there. The wing is the gift of Mr. Ruffer, chairman of the committee of the French Hospital in London, of which the home at Brighton is a branch, and contains 22 beds. It will be known as the "Alphonse and Caroline Ruffer wing," after the father and mother of the donor. M. Cambon was received by Dr. Louis Vintras, who showed him over the institution. The Ambassador congratulated the nuns who gave their time to the care of the inmates and pensioners. One of the latter presented an address of thanks to M. Cambon, who conversed with each of the patients, and congratulated the officials of the institution. He warmly thanked Mr. Ruffer for his generosity.

At a meeting of the medical consulting staff of the National Association for the Feeble-minded, a body composed of about 30 medical

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