

are golden. Then, is there, for a woman, any satisfaction in this world to equal the satisfaction of ministering every hour of the day to the comfort and well-being of one in a state of disease? That appreciative patients are not invariable I know; but when the physical body proclaims its appreciation in spite of the unwilling mind—and it often does—one is not defrauded of one's just reward.

There is one enormous advantage in nursing as a profession which, to my mind, is worth even more than all those enumerated, namely, that one is able to go to each new case with an absolutely clean slate, unhampered by the impressions caused by one's blunders or errors of judgment made at previous cases.

Have we through inexperience failed in tactful dealing with a special type of patient, or her relatives, or her servants; have we in ignorance not realised her tenacity concerning some odd and harmless personal habit, or have we found friction through trying to adapt to one household a system of nursing unwelcome to it, though enthusiastically received by the last patient's family? Well, we have learnt our lesson for all time, and pass on with increased wisdom to a family where none know of our former mistakes and weaknesses, and where we shall make more mistakes, of course, because perfection is not for this plane. Think what it means to a progressive woman, to be able practically to start her professional life afresh at each new case to which she goes. What would not the women in every other occupation give to be able to do likewise? For nurses one may thus parody some hopeful lines:—

Every case is a fresh beginning,

Listen my soul to the glad refrain,

And spite of old blunders and older sinning,

And troubles forecasted and probable pain,

Take heart with the case, and begin again.

To those who have newly embarked on the career of a private nurse, and are still at the painful stage of the disillusionment of many of their ideas concerning the work, I would quote the beautiful phrase which opens one of Miss Montrésor's stories:

"You think God's balance tilts the loss with gain? Nay, friend—I know it."

M. M. G. B.

### The Nurses' Directory Bill.

The Authorised Edition of the Parliamentary Debate on the Official Directory of Nurses Bill has now been issued in pamphlet form, and is printed and published by Wyman and Sons, Fetter Lane, London, price 1s. 5d. This pamphlet should be added to the nurses' libraries,

and should be studied carefully as the majority of nurses in training—somewhat physically exhausted by their daily routine of work—appear to take but little interest in attempted legislation by which they may be intimately affected. Read this Debate, and realise that it is the duty of the units of any class of workers to take an intelligent interest in any form of legislation which touches that work.

### The Duty of the Moment.

The warm thanks of the Nursing Profession as a whole are due to those members who inspired by conviction that if the Nurses' Directory Bill passed its second reading in the House of Lords a great wrong would be done to every trained nurse, worked with whole-hearted energy to have it rejected. The Irish Nurses' Association and their friends have shown the utmost circumspection in their methods, and proved themselves politicians to the manner born. It was greatly owing to their energy that the nurses of the United Kingdom have been spared a most humiliating defeat in their justifiable demand for State organisation and protection.

To Lord Ampthill, Lord Ashbourne, Viscount Goschen, Lord Monkswell, Earl Russell, and the Marquis of Lansdowne, the nurses owe a deep debt of gratitude for their convincing eloquence in support of their claims, and to Earl Roberts for his kind letter to his peers. With such supporters in the House of Lords, let us hope that before long the trained nurses of this country, to whom the community owes much, may attain that legal status to which as an honourable band of workers they have every right.

But it is not commendable that so much of the work for reform should be done by the few, or that our opponents should be able to say with truth, that only some 10,000 nurses have combined in their demand for registration. What is needed now is that every trained nurse who appreciates the danger just escaped of the attempt through the Directory Bill to deprive *her personally and professionally of liberty of action, shall now without delay enrol herself a member of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses*, and come out and do her share of the work necessary to prevent such attacks in future. Let another 10,000 cooperate and support the pioneers. All information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., and application forms, which our readers can fill in and forward to the above address, will be found on page x. of this week's issue. *Help now without delay.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)