

heals for oneself, and yet which may thereby be covered over, and turned into a means of blessing for others.

A Probationer must be content to be at first what schoolboys call a "fag." Her hours of duty are the same as those of the Staff-Nurse, beginning at seven o'clock in the morning, when she helps wash the patients, make the beds and sweep the ward; she must act in complete obedience to the instructions of the Sister and Staff-Nurse, and this cannot too strongly be insisted upon in a ward, for upon it depends all discipline and order. The dusting falls to her share, and always the serving of luncheon and suppers—excepting, of course, upon her off duty evenings. She carries away and cleanses all dirty dressing bowls and trays, makes poultices, washes mackintoshes and keeps the lavatory in nice order. Never putting herself forward, she should yet take every opportunity of learning, listening carefully to the clinical lectures, looking out the meaning of terms used which she does not understand, and keeping eyes and ears always open to increase her store of knowledge; she follows the clinical rounds of the medical staff, covering the patients, closing windows, and removing soiled dressings; she assists the nurse in carrying round the dinners, feeds the little ones, and afterwards removes the empty plates, which are washed by the ward-maid; she sweeps down the centre of the ward after dinner, and dusts everything, sponging the faces of the children, and putting straight the crumpled bedclothes. Sometimes she has mackintoshes to wash, but often in the afternoon she can take a lesson in splint-padding.

A Probationer must not expect to do much actual nursing at first, and the chief of the menial work necessarily falls to her share; but all this is nursing, for it is all necessary where there is sickness, and the knowledge of the importance of perfect cleanliness in every detail is invaluable in the higher position which she hopes to take later on; then, as she grows accustomed to the ward, and proves her aptitude, the nurse is glad to instruct her in other duties, such as making poultices, changing dressings, and taking temperatures; she is sometimes appointed to watch a special case, and then has a good opportunity for taking notes and making observations, reporting all changes in her case to the Sister, who is willing to help, by explaining symptoms she does not yet understand.

The first year of a nurse's life is a very happy one; she has not the heavy responsibility that makes her, though still a happy, yet a graver woman, and the new helpful life upon which she has entered is deeply interesting. She has the same hours on and off duty as the Nurse, though of course is out on different days, and sometimes she gets off a little earlier when the work is light, and she has proved herself worthy of consideration. There is no better field for the exercise of mental and physical qualities

than Nursing in all its branches. It is most essentially a woman's work, and one the standard of which is steadily rising, and must continue to rise for long years to come.

NURSING ECHOES.

*** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are specially invited for these columns.*

MUCH sorrow has been excited in the Nursing world by the news of the death of Miss Alice Fisher, one of its best known and most generally respected members. She had been suffering severely, for some months, from heart disease, supposed to have been originally caused by an attack of rheumatic fever, which she had while a Probationer at St. Thomas's. She was the daughter of the late Rev. George Fisher, F.R.S., whose father was a former celebrated Head Master of Eton. She nursed her father during his long last illness, and then realised that her vocation was to alleviate, so far as Nursing could do so, the sufferings of the sick. Having been fully trained at St. Thomas's, she became the Assistant-Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, at Edinburgh, from which she passed as Lady Superintendent to the Newcastle-on-Tyne Infirmary. She was next appointed to the charge of Nursing at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, where she stayed five years, and only left at the earnest invitation of the authorities to take the supervision of the Radcliffe Infirmary, in the sister university town.

FROM there she was in like manner persuaded to transfer her services to the General Hospital at Birmingham, and finally to undertake the re-organisation of the Nursing Department at the great City Hospital of Philadelphia, in the United States. Wherever she went her extraordinary individuality became stamped upon the whole institution, while her intense energy, love of her work, and habits of order, infected all her subordinates and co-workers in a manner almost magical. She had her faults, of course, as every one must have, but they chiefly served to show up in greater contrast her many excellencies. To few women has it fallen, or is it likely to fall again, to have, in the short space of fifteen years, the chief charge and practical renovation of six large and important hospitals; and the fact that she passed from place to place with greater and greater credit and usefulness, always leaving greater and greater regret behind her, is the best possible proof of her mental powers and personal characteristics.

SMALL wonder is it, therefore, that the citizens of the great transatlantic town are lamenting her death, and in graceful and grateful words recording her worth.

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