

respects, will probably fail to give satisfaction, either to the Doctor or the patient or his friends.

Her first duties in Medical cases will probably consist in contributing to the patient's comfort by changing bed and body linen, sponging the skin, or preparing and administering food, for a Nurse is seldom sent for till the nature of the disease is declared, though the patient may have been really ill for several days. In surgical cases, she may be summoned hastily to attend a case of accident, or may be called upon, some days before, to take charge of the patient, and prepare him, and everything needful, for a serious operation. After the deft performance of the first personal offices, an invalid will no longer regard her as a stranger, and may often, from mere caprice, appear to take a great fancy for her attentions, refusing all tenders of service from anxious relatives. So far from regarding such preference with any special satisfaction, a thoughtful Nurse will endeavour to shew the wife or mother how to perform various minor offices in a comfortable manner, by asking her assistance, though it may not be absolutely necessary. Nothing is more consoling to relatives and dear friends than to feel they are of some use to the invalid.

Having secured the good will of her patient, she must endeavour, by absolute candour and implicit obedience, to gain the Doctor's confidence. She should arrange to see him before he enters the sick room, so as to avoid giving her report in the patient's presence, and leave it with him, to receive any further instructions he may not think desirable to give in the sick room. Though strict Hospital etiquette is not generally kept up between the Doctor and Nurse in private practice, it must never be forgotten that this etiquette really defines their true position, and that to her belongs the carrying out of treatment prescribed by him, without comment or suggestion. Before leaving Hospital, she will have learnt *how* to give a report; any officious suggestions are quite as out of place in private practice as in a Hospital, where, as every Nurse knows, they would not be tolerated. Besides and beyond the respect which should be shown in the Doctor's presence, loyalty should be rendered in his absence. Injudicious friends and nearly every patient will inquire the Nurse's *candid opinion* of the prescribed treatment, and possibly of the Doctor's personal attributes. It is most unwise to express an opinion of any kind on either of these matters, while to criticise unfavourably treatment intended for the patient's benefit, and probably prescribed from intimate scientific knowledge of the peculiarities of the case, is ridiculous, if not dishonourable. It may sometimes happen that a Nurse has to take a case under a Doctor for whom she has a personal dis-

like; but her duty is quite distinct from her likes and dislikes, and all that is necessary is to set a still stricter guard over her manner and speech. It is far more trying when some intimate friend, or the patient himself, takes an aversion to the Doctor; if the Nurse shows unwavering loyalty and obedience, and the Doctor's actions are invariably placed in the proper (*i.e.*, the best) light, there is little fear of such an unfortunate misunderstanding.

A good Nurse will avoid sending for the Doctor for trivial changes, but will never hesitate to summon him when any symptoms of complications set in, or the treatment is producing unexpected results.

Should it happen that a Nurse has to undertake a case in private practice, of which she has had no previous Hospital experience, she should frankly inform the Doctor, whereupon he will give his directions in fuller detail, and tell her what to expect; but will certainly not regard her with less confidence than would have been the case had she left him to find out her inexperience.

THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

MERTING AT SHEFFIELD.

ON Wednesday, the 19th September, a very large and representative meeting was held at the Public Hospital, Sheffield. The Board-room, in which the meeting was held, had been most tastefully decorated with flowers by the Resident Nurses.

Mr. Geo. Francis Lockwood, Hon. Secretary of the Hospital, presided, and amongst those present were:—Dr. Cleaver, Dr. S. White, Dr. Lewis Hunt, Dr. C. M. Gwynne, Dr. J. D. Wynne, Mr. S. Snell, Mr. J. M. Willey, Mr. W. W. Banham, Mr. P. E. Barber, Mr. David Walsh, Mr. T. Robinson, Mr. H. P. Marsh, Mr. J. W. Robinson, Miss Cadbury (Matron, Sheffield Public Hospital, (Hon. Local Secretary of the Association), Miss Booth (Matron, Jessop Hospital), Miss Pountney (Matron, Children's Hospital), Miss Armstrong (Lady Superintendent, Sheffield Nurses' Home), Miss Corvan (Lady Superintendent, St. George's Home, Sheffield), Miss Lee (Matron, Beckett Hospital, Barnsley), Miss Hall (Matron, Rotherham Hospital), Miss Batchelor (Matron, Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield), and a large number of Nurses from the Public Hospital, Jessop Hospital, Children's Hospital, the Nurses' Home, and the St. George's Home.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from several gentlemen. Dr. Theodore Thomson (Medical Officer of Health for Sheffield)

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