

The CHAIRMAN then asked whether the Nurses would prefer to have an examination conducted by an independent central examining body, or by the authorities of the Hospital where they were trained. Those who wished to have a certificate from the central body in London would hold up one hand. This vote was not unanimous, several Nurses being of opinion that they should be certified from the Institution where they had been trained, while some were in favour of passing two examinations—one local, and one central.

Miss WOOD said that the examinations at different Hospitals were very diverse. There were Hospitals of all sizes, down to the Cottage Hospital, with six beds; and, of course, the work the Nurses would have to do would vary considerably. Suppose a Nurse at some Cottage Hospital brings her certificate. She is placed upon the Register, on the same footing as a Nurse who has been trained in one of the great Nursing centres, having passed her local examination.

The CHAIRMAN said that they had probably not been understood on their first vote.

Mr. SNELL rose to propose a most cordial vote of thanks to Miss WOOD for her kindness in coming down, and in explaining so clearly to them the objects of the British Nurses' Association. He was afraid that they were a very long way off obtaining a Royal Charter; they would have to knock, and knock a long time, at the Privy Council, before the door was opened. He was, however, in perfect sympathy with the Association, and concluded by moving a most cordial vote of thanks to Miss WOOD.

This was seconded by Dr. WHITE, and carried *nem. con.*

Miss WOOD suitably acknowledged the compliment.

On the motion of Dr. CLEAVER, seconded by Dr. GWYNNE, a most cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Lockwood for his kindness in presiding.

Mr. LOCKWOOD, in responding, said that he hoped the objects of the British Nurses' Association would ultimately be successfully accomplished.

COURTESY.

By ANNIE BLISSETT.

"For manners are not idle, but the fruit
Of loyal nature, and of noble mind."

TENNYSON.

WE are all aware of the charm of courtesy in social life, but in the hurry and bustle of a busy Hospital, where we mingle with humanity in its most uncultured condition, and are wont to hear a spade called a spade, without

any of the reservations to which our more enlightened education has accustomed us, there is danger of our forgetting its mighty power of lubrication, and how a mental wheel that has stiffened with the sometimes dry routine of daily work, oiled with the grace of courtesy, will turn easily and smoothly on its appointed axis. In some natures this grace of courtesy is innate, and to them it would be perfectly natural to pass behind a foot-passenger who was studying a placard on the wall, whether the pedestrian be lord or labourer, and to rise in the Ward upon the entrance of their Matron, however inferior that Matron be in point of genealogy or erudition, in simple deference to the dignity of her position, and with regard to that discipline, which, according to Inspector Bucket, "must be observed." But in others this fine courtesy is the veneer of education and cultured intercourse, and apt to wear thin for lack of a little care. It is only the rarest souls who can keep their metaphysical armour bright without an occasional polish, if it be merely with the duster of reflection; and it is astonishing how one insignificant person who has used this duster, while to ocular demonstration she was only scrubbing a locker, may alter the whole atmosphere of a Ward.

A great American writer has said of the English, that "they are testy and headstrong through an excess of will and bias; churlish as men sometimes please to be who do not forget a debt, who ask no favours, and who will do what they like with their own." If it be our national characteristic to be churlish, how much more need have we of the "duster," for by due attention the weakest points in our armour may be made the most resistant. I can remember a sensitive Probationer, appointed to a Ward where among the Nurses the Sister had the unenviable reputation of a sharp tongue, and I was witness to the assertion of that Probationer that that was one of her happiest months; for I know she checkmated irritation with a gentle unflinching courtesy, and won consideration by attention to the small details of discipline, that are important to remember, and easy to forget.

A Sister has so much of vital import to recollect, that she sometimes fails to realise what a difference the tone of her voice, and the use of the small word, "please," makes to her Nurse. A Sister in my probationary days (she has since left England) used invariably to issue her commands with the sweetness of one suing a favour. I can remember her saying, "Nurse, will you kindly bring me the ink?" and her "Thank you" was unflinching. My feet might ache, but they were never too tired to run swiftly at her bidding, and I was always sure of a gracious recognition of my strenuous efforts to improve. There are so many cardinal points of which it might be, and, doubtless, often is,

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