

accounted arrogance to personally indicate, but which all in their different stations like to have observed. A Sister likes to have the door held for her, if she happens to be passing with her Nurse; likes to be given, without question, the prominent position during a clinical examination; to hear a tap upon her room door, previous to an entrance; a courteous "Good morning," upon her first appearance; and a deference to her wishes that must be shown, but may be, "grudgingly and of necessity," and a Sister knows well how great a difference this makes.

There is the art, too, of omission, that will well repay a little study. It is not courteous to retail the invidious trifles, that spread with the rapidity of a conflagration when once launched, and like the fowl and farmyard story, obtain such dimensions, that they may be eagerly discussed by their progenitor in serene unconsciousness of their origin, for "the tongue is a little member, but behold how great a fire it kindleth"; and often the fire is not quenched before serious damage has been done—damage to more than property, to the heart's best feelings, and to the crushing of a sensitive nature.

The patients, whose lives are mostly rough, and to whom there comes little experience of "the grace of manner," may learn many a lesson from Sister and Nurse—lessons of self-sacrifice and self-control; practical demonstration of the fact, that example is better than precept, and how "a soft answer turneth away wrath." The fact that they are recipients of charity should never be obtruded, and necessary interrogations delicately made. It is very sweet to earn the gratitude of a patient, because you speak to them gently, and touch them as though you could feel their pain; and to see the glad brightening of the face when you draw near, instead of the shrinking and sullenness that is part of the resentment of a rough word; for in sickness the mind is often morbid and querulously inclined to cavil at trifles health would scorn.

The patient's friends are tedious with interrogations, but they ought always to be considerately, if concisely, answered, for the whole brightness of their life may be centred on that uninteresting form, to us only "a case." And were one of our own dear ones compelled to accept the charity of the public institution, how bitter would discourtesy render us. In the Nurses' sitting-room one need never be too tired for courtesy. The stranger, who fears intruding in somebody's pet chair, and feels chilled and nervous in the absence of familiar faces, would be grateful for a gentle encouraging reception and welcome, an offer of assistance in the arrangement of her caps, instead of a covert smile at her stupidity, and a place given to her in the circle round the fire. A Staff Nurse, with an

assured position, and possessed of the confidence of long residence, is apt to forget the sensations of a first arrival, feeling shy and lonely, and is quite unaware how her brusque manner has chilled and disheartened the new Pro., for "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart," and it is far more often the former than the latter that is in fault; for Nurses are truly kind of heart, perhaps because they live in an atmosphere of realities, where such things as sweetness and light are God's own gift, and not only patented æstheticism.

There is much in every phase of life we can do for each other, and the day would close for us far more happily leaving a record of gracefully spoken words, soothing jarred nerves, and a few little courteous deeds, helping to render Hospital life beautiful with the real beauty that comes from within. Nursing is a noble work, truly womanly, essentially gentle-womanly; culture is not wasted. Courtesy is needed as well as wisdom and knowledge, in one who elects to be genuine comfort to humanity when body and mind are at their weakest, when mole-hills are mountains, and when the clouds of sickness and pain eclipse every ray of the sunshine that is behind.

NURSING ECHOES.

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

I AM sure all my readers must have been most grieved to see in the papers last week, that Princess Christian has found it necessary "to go to Wiesbaden to consult a famous German oculist." Her Royal Highness, who is probably the most universally popular of Her Majesty's daughters, and has endeared herself to thousands, has, within the last year, become the acknowledged head of the Nursing profession in the Empire, by accepting the Presidency of the British Nurses' Association, an office to which her own well-known love for, and knowledge of, Nursing pre-eminently entitled her. And it is openly admitted by the leaders of that Association that to her business capacity, energy, and shrewd advice, its rapid success is largely due. All its members, and all other Nurses, therefore, must, I feel sure, unite in the most earnest hope that Her Royal Highness may speedily be restored to complete health and strength.

TALKING of the Association reminds me that I have just received a notice of the meeting of the General Council, which is to be held on Friday, the 12th instant, at 4.30, and which, I hear, will

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