

cesses achieved during the last summer session, pointing out that of the thirteen Students who entered for the Intermediate Examination at London University, twelve had passed, the large majority of them in the honours list. In the divisions of anatomy, physiology, and *Materia Medica*, they were in the proud position of saying that the women Students had passed as well as the candidates from all the other schools put together, a statement which elicited loud applause."

\* \* \*

"MISS WALKER DUNBAR, in her opening remarks, said that the improvement which had taken place in the position of Medical women since her own Student days was most striking. Obstacles had been removed and barriers broken down in all directions; and, most important of all, women were now able to study for their profession in their native land. But, because their predecessors had smoothed the way for them in a great measure, she warned her hearers against the mistake of supposing that their life would be an easy one. They could not afford to hurry over their work, or to treat it lightly, even in their earliest years of preparation. The subjects which they had first to learn—such as botany, zoology, chemistry, and physics—might seem to have little direct bearing upon medicine; but they would find that without these introductory studies, they would scarcely be in a position to profit by the purely medical instruction which was to follow. To medicine proper the same remarks applied. There was no fragment of knowledge which they could afford to neglect, or which they would not some day be thankful to possess. It might be imagined that the bedside would afford the richest field of study; but she warned her hearers against thinking that obvious symptoms were the most important, and characterised as quackery all attempts to check such symptoms without previously attacking the disease in its inner strongholds."

\* \* \*

"UPON the completion of their medical course, Dr. Dunbar recommended that women Practitioners should endeavour to obtain a Hospital appointment. Failing this, a dispensary for the outdoor treatment of women and children was a good way to make a beginning. Such a dispensary, with the aid of a few subscriptions, and a committee of friends to interest themselves in it, was easily established, and was quickly appreciated in any large town. It was usual to charge a shilling as entrance fee, and sixpence for each subsequent attendance. When patients desired visits in their own homes, they would often be found willing to pay a penny or twopence weekly all the year round, upon the understanding that they should have the requisite attendance and medicines when ill. In

pursuing their professional career, the lecturer said that women must avoid the temptation to become unduly engrossed in medicine, to the exclusion of other interests. The Doctor who was nothing but a Doctor was a very dull person. In their leisure moments it was desirable to devote their attention to some special subject remote from their work, such as literature or art. In conclusion, she hoped that during the years of study which lay before them, her auditors might become not merely professional women, but women of general culture and of high moral principle. A cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Dunbar was then proposed by Dr. George Buchanan, of Glasgow University, seconded by the Rev. Llewellyn Davies, and supported by Dr. Gant, Senior Physician of the Royal Free Hospital, and the proceedings shortly afterwards terminated."

#### THE ROYAL NAVAL HOSPITAL, PLYMOUTH.

OUR attention has been drawn to a correspondence which has been recently going on through the columns of our contemporary, the *Western Morning News*, which opened the subject in a spirited and, in our opinion, perfectly justifiable manner, as follows:—

"At the Naval Hospital, Plymouth, three of the Nursing Sisters and two domestic servants have lately been suffering from enteric fever, and no official steps have been taken after an interval of seven weeks to trace the source of the poisoning. After five weeks' illness one Sister was recommended for sick leave, and a fortnight was granted. A few days later a second (whose illness had been more severe) was also recommended, but the leave was refused. No reason was given, but she was told she might take a fortnight out of her annual leave, which in her weak state she did not care to do. She is, therefore, still in the Hospital on the sick list, with but little chance of recovering health or strength. Surely these circumstances require investigation."

This article called forth a reply from "Veritas," which we reproduce *in extenso*.

"NURSING 'SISTERS' AT THE R.N. HOSPITAL.

"Sir,—I hope that you will permit me to contradict in the most unqualified manner the statements which appeared in your columns of the 2nd inst., relative to the illness of these ladies, and to express my surprise that your informant should not have taken some means to ascertain that his or her statements were true before rushing into print.

"1 (Statement). 'Three Sisters and two servants have lately been suffering from enteric fever, and no official steps have been taken after an interval of seven weeks to trace the source of the poisoning.'

"(Reality). The source of contamination was officially and most satisfactorily ascertained six weeks ago, directly that the nature of the illness was known.

"2 (Statement). 'A second Sister, whose illness had been more severe, was refused sick leave. No reason was given, but she was told she might take a fortnight out of her annual

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)