

In answer to Dr. Ramsay, Miss WOOD stated that the terms of membership referred only to female Nurses. Whether male Nurses would come under the Charter would be a question for the lawyers to decide. She did not see how they could be kept off the Register of Nurses, but they would not belong to the Association.

Dr. HEWELSON said the Nurses absolutely needed an Association of the kind intended to be formed. Medical men were frequently at the mercy of so-called Nurses who had undergone no training, and as Medical men knew the value of properly Trained Nurses they ought to pledge themselves to employ only those Nurses who obtained Certificates of Registration. He moved a resolution stating that that meeting approved of the objects of the British Nurses' Association, and pledging those present to further its views as much as possible.

Dr. HINGSTON seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

Dr. RAMSAY said it afforded him great pleasure to hear the extremely able way in which the movement had been brought before their notice by Miss Wood. He thought the whole scheme was an eminently fair one. It seemed to be fair to the public, fair to the Medical profession, and especially fair to the Nurses themselves. At first sight it bore the appearance of a hardship that they should ask those who came forward to devote their lives to the arduous task of Nursing, to undertake the additional obligation of Registering, but he thought the safety and the satisfaction they would derive from it would more than compensate for the extra trouble. He approved of the scheme, and had no hesitation in strongly advising the Nurses of Yorkshire, who are now doing good work, to avail themselves of the privileges of the Association.

Mr. JALLAND proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Wood, which was seconded by Dr. HITCHCOCK, and carried.

On the motion of Mr. R. H. FELTON a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and the meeting terminated.

IF I were to pray for a taste which should stand me in good stead under every variety of circumstances, and be a source of happiness and cheerfulness to me through life and a shield against its ills, however things might go amiss and the world frown upon me, it would be a taste for reading.—
Sir John Herschel.

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PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION.—VI.

"GIVE A DESCRIPTION, WITH FULL DETAILS, OF THE UNIFORMS AND MOST SUITABLE CLOTHING FOR THE NURSING STAFF OF A HOSPITAL."

BY MISS ALICE DANNATT.

*Honorary Superintendent of District Nursing,
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FINE dressing is a foul house swept before the door." Amongst George Herbert's "Outlandish Proverbs" not one is more expressive, or has more meaning in it, than this—"Fine dressing is a foul house swept before the door." How expressive! Not, you see, comfortable dressing, suitable dressing, neat dressing, but "fine dressing." And what is it? Not a well-conducted house, a well-arranged house, a clean house—no, "A foul house swept before the door." Think of it! A house where there is no sort of cleanliness within, but just a show of it outside. And what is *fine* dress? The word is not here used in the sense of delicate, or even as only somewhat gay, but rather as over gay, showy, something for mere show, unsuitable, extravagant, or too cheap and pretentious: something which does not speak of that wisdom which is "a trimmer thing than shop e'er gave." Ruskin says girls should dress "beautifully, not finely, unless on occasion, but then very finely and beautifully, too." He does not recommend vanity and love of dress, but rather a true appreciation of what is beautiful, suitable and right.

Before entering on the subject of Nurses' dress, let me say a few words about clothing generally. I say clothing, for *dress* is a different subject, and so large in its many aspects, so wide in its interest, ancient and modern, its industries, and its arts, its relation to political economy, its use and its abuse, that it is a subject far too large for this essay.

That clothing should be suitable for our station and for the work we are engaged in, is so common a saying, it has become trite. What is suitable is the difficult point. Only good judgment, good common sense, and a certain amount of unselfishness can determine this; but there will be no extravagance or glaring conspicuousness, no unseemly attire, nor anything that entrenches on womanly delicacy. "The highest praise as to dress, which a right-minded woman would desire, would be to have it said of her, 'I did not notice her dress, but I noticed herself, and she seemed an unaffected, modest, Christian lady.'"

When that great man whom we all honour, Sir J. Y. Simpson, was asked, "What do you think the fittest subject for reformation?" he answered,

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