

her gentleness of touch, her noiseless ways, and, above all, the inestimable tonic of affection and undemonstrative sympathy mark her as having an inalienable right to that throne of thrones, the government of the sick-room. Small need is there to call to mind the real Crimean conqueror, Florence Nightingale, and her band of devoted women, or to tell of the splendid deeds of self-sacrifice done by Nursing women from all time. Every man among us who has ever been successfully 'Nurse-tended' through an illness can bear loving witness to the restorative help which lay in the thought that in the very worst moments there was a woman near him to place a soft hand on his forehead, or with swift dexterity perform the old Nursery operation of turning the pillows, and so bring the cool side up to the burning brow. What concerns us is to invite attention to the new Association of British Nurses, in aid of which a *Conversazione* will be held at the Grosvenor Gallery to-morrow, when many hundred Nurses will be present, wearing the uniform of their different Hospitals, and an exhibition of Nursing appliances will be on view. The public should and ought to know the high perfection to which the science of Nursing has been brought, and the way in which the natural instinct referred to has been cultivated, developed, and equipped with sound practical knowledge. The Nurses themselves will, no doubt, be glad to feel that they are recognised as a profession, and join hands in the new confederacy which our own Royal Princess has inaugurated. They will understand that they are forming a mutual-help guild, and, as it were, federating sisterhoods hitherto unknown to each other. All trades have customs of union and combination, and surely no trade on earth has such just claim to concentration and unity as that of the women who help in the great curing craft. Physicians and Surgeons have their Colleges and their Medical Associations, and it is not too much to ask that the handmaidens of Medical science should be entitled to similar bonds of connection, and receive, if necessary, the support of the public in their new movement. Of the fifteen thousand Nurses at daily and nightly work, sixteen hundred members have been already enrolled, and the Association, which is approved of by leading men in the profession, seems to us to be of a character that will give strength and concentration to one of our noblest armies."

THERE is one furnace that melts all hearts—
Love; there is one balm that soothes all pain—
Patience; there is one medicine that cures all
ills—Time; there is one peace that ends all strife—
Death; there is one light that illuminates all dark-
ness—Hope.

NURSING APPLIANCES AT THE GROSVENOR GALLERY.

HEARING on all sides what a success "our *Conversazione*" was to be, and how all the world and his wife was anxious to be present, I drove up to the Grosvenor at 8.30 p.m., although not invited till nine, and murmured apologetically, in answer to the inquiring gaze of the Hon. Secretary, that time was made for slaves and not for Nurses. The fact was, I was determined to have a real good view of the Nursing appliances and inventions before the crush began, when I feared it would be hopeless. To my surprise I found that I had already been preceded by at least twenty of my colleagues, who, all athirst for knowledge, had found their way to the minor gallery, where, along the right wall, the exhibition was displayed on a stall of some thirty feet long, which was artistically draped in soft sheeny silks—two lovely shades of green, festooned over a ground of shell pink.

The Hospitals most worthily represented were King's College Hospital, Charing Cross, Royal Free, St. Bartholomew's, Victoria Hospital for Children, and the National Hospital, Queen Square. In the centre of the stall, and exceedingly well arranged, were to be seen a large assortment of useful, and in many instances ornamental, articles, lent for the occasion by Messrs. Maw and Son, of Aldersgate Street, E.C., and Messrs. Allen and Son, of Marylebone Lane, W. In this department was to be found a charming model of the Excelsior Bed-lift, invented by Mrs. Monkhouse, and who, being present, kindly explained its mechanism to me.

Amongst the advantages of the Excelsior Bed-lift, the following may be especially mentioned:—

(1) It raises the patient in a perfectly horizontal position. It is worked by one person, and there is nothing to startle or oppress a patient, as is often the case with lifts placed on or above the bed.

(2) It is portable, and can be easily and *noiselessly* fixed to any ordinary iron bedstead *without disturbing the patient*; whilst, once in position, it can be left in constant readiness for use. It can be adjusted to *any sized bedstead*.

(3) It obviates all exposure and risk of cold, since it is not necessary to remove the bed coverings when using it.

(4) By its use beds can be made and aired, wounds dressed, and all necessary offices discharged with perfect ease to both Nurse and invalid. This is effected by the easily removable straps, which can be changed or removed without risk or disturbance to the patient.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)