

cannot stay here any longer, the 'case' is so extremely uninteresting. Your mother is sure to die; but, dear me! it may be months before she does, and all that time I shall be learning nothing" (might she not have been learning self-discipline, patience, and sympathy?). She was also most unwilling to do the simple things in the sick-room and for the patient that were asked of her, and, besides, greatly wanting in patience and gentleness; nevertheless, she was very skilful and could nurse a "case" admirably, for she was no half-trained, ignorant Nurse, but one entitled to be a member of the British Nurses' Association and to Legal Registration.

It is true this is only one instance, and we know that hundreds might be brought to bear the other way; but unfortunately even one instance is sufficient to do much harm to a cause and to a profession, for in this case the whole neighbourhood was after that experience dead against, and will not even now hear one good word in favour of, Trained Lady Nurses. Or again, only a week ago, a lady who has had much experience with Nurses of all classes, grades or opinions, said these significant words to me—"I have come to the sad conclusion, after all my experience with Nurses, that when I am ill myself I shall hope to be nursed by one who is *not* a lady in the ordinary sense of the word, but who has learnt her refinement, tenderness, and sympathy by suffering, by sorrow and by religion, rather than by gentle birth and education."

It is true these things grate upon us, we do not like to hear them, and we will not believe them; but it is scarcely wise or politic to ignore them, or put them impatiently aside, and merely assert positively these things *are not so*: it will be far better to face the difficulties at once and determine by individual effort (for we all know that it is really individuals who rule the masses and guide public opinion), that such things shall not be possible in the future.

Let us, one and all, put our shoulders to the wheel to prevent such things being said with any grain of truth, or such gross selfishness and heartlessness being allowed to go on, in our midst; let us set to work to train ourselves by self-discipline and self-sacrifice to be ready on all points for Legal Registration when it comes, to be worthy and true members of our profession and of the high calling to which we have been called, and to realize to the full the grave responsibilities that rest upon each and every one of us.

"More able to endure,
As more exposed to suffering and distress;
Thence, also, more alive to tenderness."

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NURSING ECHOES.

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

AFTER all the excitement there has been in Nursing circles for the last four or five weeks, Christmas has come upon us quite as a restful time. I suppose every one of my Hospital readers has her hands full now with Ward and chapel decorations, and I wish them all success in their useful work, because we all know how it brightens the lives of many weary, bedridden ones to watch the preparations, and perhaps in some small way help on the plans for the adornment of the Ward. I think, as a rule, Christmas is a very happy time in Hospitals, and so it is no empty compliment to wish, as I do, most heartily, every one of my readers a very happy Christmas Day.

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THERE is comparatively little to chronicle this week, as everyone is of course very busy with the preparations of the season, and but little else is doing either inside or outside Hospitals. But I hear that Miss Gertrude Knight has been appointed Matron to the Adelaide Hospital in Dublin, which is one of the largest and most important Institutions in the City. Miss Knight was trained at St. Bartholomew's, during the years 1880-82, and has since then held some very responsible posts. For more than three years past she has been Matron to the National Eye and Ear Infirmary in Dublin. There is abundant evidence, not only that a better system of Nursing is possible in many Irish Hospitals, but that the authorities recognise the fact, and are determined to make the improvements. With a few Lady Superintendents like Miss Huxley, of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, as distinguished for complete knowledge of Nursing as for powers of organization and discipline, the Nurses of Irish Hospitals would soon rival those of first-class English Institutions. So I earnestly wish Miss Knight and her recently appointed colleague every success and happiness in their new work.

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TALKING about new appointments, I am told that Miss Mackey, who was recently elected head of the Nursing Department at the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat in Golden Square, has already made several marked improvements in the working of that Institution. A practically new Staff of lady Nurses has been appointed, and commenced their duties. I hear that when the Empress Frederick went over the Hospital last week, she visited and paid special attention to the new sitting-room and bed-rooms for the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)