

convinced that, once more, we shall have the satisfaction, at some future time, of finding our views accepted as correct, as they have been before upon so many previous occasion.

The grounds, however, upon which we base our present argument, appears, to our minds, strong beyond dispute. The object of a School is to teach; the teaching afforded in Hospitals, either to Medical or Nursing Students, is, and must necessarily be, purely practical in its character. There are only a limited number of patients, at any given time, in the Wards of any given Hospital, by observation of, and attendance upon, whom, experience, that is to say, education, can be obtained. The observation of, and attendance upon, any given patient, is also not illimitable. The more, therefore, that one person does for that patient, the less will another be able to do; and the reasoning for one is applicable to all. Consequently, the more of the clinical work which is performed by the Nurse, or by the Medical student, the more practical experience, in fact, of the progress of disease, or of the detailed duties requisite in attendance upon the sick which the one or the other pupil acquires, so much the less opportunities of knowledge are left for the other.

Let us explain our meaning by some familiar examples. In some Metropolitan Hospitals, the Nurses take the temperatures and chart them, give internal and even hypodermic injections, test the urines, and apply leeches, dressings and bandages. In such an Institution, how is the medical student to acquire practical dexterity in these simple but important manipulations? It is easy enough to reply that in theory he can do these and more, and that he knows, moreover, precisely why they are done, and what they teach and what they effect; and that with this book knowledge he can pass very comfortably and creditably through his Hospital career, and even through his examinations. This is, doubtless, accurate. But what is the natural result when this gentleman commences medical practice outside the Hospital walls? Five times out of ten he will feel quite at sea without a Nurse, to carry out, for his patients, details which he has never been accustomed

to perform; and, in every case, he will for long bemoan his lack of practical experience, of little points of treatment which, in his whole educational career, he was never afforded an opportunity of learning. It is a common saying amongst medical men who became qualified so late as the "seventies," that almost the most valuable part of their work in the Wards was that they, practically, had to "nurse" their patients. Many a time, for example, they had to make a poultice and apply it, to sit for hours tending a tracheotomy case, or watching and feeding a typhoid, while they were always expected to give patients with pyrexia the prescribed pack or bath. In the early days of antiseptics, again, invaluable lessons were learnt by the dresser who was held responsible for the spray or the dressings. But now, in most large Hospitals, all this is altered—the Nurse does all this work, and does it so admirably that the patients are quite as well served, while the student has more time to prepare for the agonies of examinations. We leave it to our medical contemporaries to discuss the question whether it would not, however, be better, for their after-success, that students should, as formerly, be enabled to obtain the invaluable practical experience involved in such actual attendance upon the sick in their Hospital Wards, as we have above described.

Meanwhile, we are free to confess that Nurses have advantaged immeasurably by the opportunities thus afforded to them. And if this has been the case in Metropolitan Hospitals, it has, to an even greater extent, been their good fortune in the many Provincial Institutions to which no Medical School is attached. Here the one, or perhaps two, Residents have gladly welcomed the co-operation and assistance of the Nurses, and they then not only have the ordinary details, to which we have alluded, to carry out, but have, probably, also fractures to set, and first aid treatment to give in all the minor medical and surgical cases which apply for relief.

So much so is this the case, that all Hospital Matrons of any experience are probably unanimous in believing that the training which a Probationer can obtain in a country Hos-

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