

peace, confidence, and repose to those under her charge. These qualities are necessary to the making of a perfect Nurse, because they are necessary to the making of a perfect woman; but we must not assume that the good woman necessarily has all the qualifications for becoming a good Nurse. The work of nursing the sick may well employ all the highest qualities of mind and soul, and religion will always furnish impulse for the development of those qualities; but the consideration of the fitness of a woman for the work of Nursing must be decided on other grounds than her theological standpoint, or even her growth in holiness.

In giving you a welcome now to our Training School for Nurses, and introducing you to those studies which form the foundation of your future practical training, I may congratulate you on having decided to take up so high and noble a work. But I would have you remember that those qualities which lead to success in other departments of life are equally needed here. Perseverance which flags not, nor fails, however great the strain or weary the toil; order and system which give the due place and proportion to each duty, and ensure that nothing shall be neglected or overlooked; eager search for knowledge, both theoretical and practical, which may give confidence in emergencies, and security at all times; *prevision* (or thinking beforehand) that falsifies the oft-repeated expression that "it is the unexpected which always happens"; and lastly, a determination not to rest satisfied with any half-knowledge of your profession, or a prefatory performance of your duties, but to show in all things earnestness and determination; for on these qualities will your success depend.

In your relation to patients under your charge, there is no better advice can be given you than that of Paul the Apostle: "Be *pitiful*, be *courteous*." The success of many a medical man has sprung from the observance of this injunction. For a Nurse it has still greater weight, and many an intelligent and highly educated woman, who had all the necessary knowledge at her fingers' ends, and who was "trained" to the highest state of perfection, has proved a failure from the absence of sympathy and pity.

Finally, let me add that there is no vocation I can more cordially recommend for an educated woman than the profession of Nursing. It satisfies the intellectual hunger of the most intelligent, and furnishes both mind and body with healthy activity; it is consonant with womanly instincts and womanly sympathies; it outrages no preconceived ideas of propriety, nor is ever likely to place a woman in a false position; it gives a means of obtaining a respectable living in useful independence; it affords a mission for those whose strong religious convictions necessitate some active duties

on behalf of the sick and afflicted; and, it secures the systematic education of the highest and noblest faculties of the mind. Further, if the circumstances of a woman's life change, and she gives up Nursing as a profession, the knowledge she has gained will never require to rust unused, but as wife, mother, sister, or daughter, she will find frequent need for its exercise, and will feel and be all the stronger, and the better able for life's conflicts, for the training she has undergone.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



THE ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Corporation was held at the Offices, on Friday, December 1st.

Amongst other business, the following ladies, whose names had been duly enrolled on the Register of the Association as trained Nurses, were admitted to membership of the Corporation:—

Miss KATHERINE ACKERLEY (Matron of the Victoria Hospital, Swindon).
 Mrs. DACRE CRAVEN.
 Miss LAURA HEATH.
 Miss FLORENCE HEWETT.
 Miss ELIZABETH H. HUDSON.
 Miss EDITH MATTHEW-LANOWE.
 Miss EMMIE LOFTS.
 Miss ELLEN M. PIZEY.
 Miss ELEANOR-ROTHERFORD.
 Miss HENRIETTA WEDGWOOD (Matron of the Royal Free Hospital).
 Miss FLORENCE WHITLEY.

It was resolved to recommend to the next meeting of the General Council, that Mrs. DACRE CRAVEN, Miss WEDGWOOD, and Mr. WALSHAM, F.R.C.S., be elected members of the Council.

The following medical men were appointed members of the Registration Board:—Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, Sir WILLIAM PRIESTLEY, Dr. BUZZARD, Mr. BRUDNELL-CARTER, Dr. COUPLAND, Dr. DUNCAN, Mr. DAVIES-COLLEY, Mr. DENT, Mr. WARRINGTON HAWARD, Mr. HERBERT PAGE, Mr. WALSHAM.

The following were appointed to form the Finance Committee:—The Vice-Chairmen, the Treasurer, and the Hon. Secretaries.

The following were appointed to form the Benevolent Schemes Committee:—Dr. HUMPHRY, Mr. ALFRED COOPER, Mr. JOHN LANGTON, Dr. GAGE BROWN, Dr. LOVELL DRAGE, Dr. SCHOFIELD, Miss BUTLER, Miss MACKAY, Miss RIDLEY, Miss ROSS, Miss E. SMITH, and the Hon. Officers.

The following were appointed to form the Educational Sub-Committee:—H.R.H. the PRESIDENT, Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, Miss THOROLD, Miss STEWART, Mrs. COSTER, Miss DE PLEDGE, Mrs. HARBIN, Miss TURNER, Miss WEDGWOOD, Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, Dr. COUPLAND, Dr. JOSEPH BELL, and the Hon. Officers.

DAISY ROBINS,
Secretary and Registrar.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)