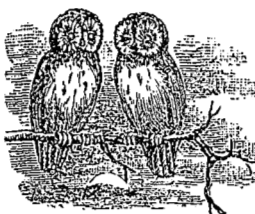


Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?

What should constitute an efficient preliminary education, and how should it be obtained?



MADAM,—I regret to again trespass upon your valuable space. I cannot, however, let pass unchallenged Miss Landale's assertion, that education and accomplishments, though desirable for Hospital workers, are not an advantage for private Nurses. I disagree with her entirely. In my opinion, no branch of Nursing requires education more than private work—education in its fullest sense, and the outcome of it, fineness of perception, intelligent obedience, tact, common sense, and readiness of resource. Moreover, *savoir faire* and adaptability, two qualities very necessary in a private Nurse, are simply unknown quantities in "women just above the class of superior upper servants." Inevitably, they must be wanting also in personal knowledge of the tastes and requirements of the class of patients usually met with by private Nurses. In no part of our work, it seems to me, are the habits and manners of a lady (in the truest meaning of the word) more essential than in private Nursing. My individual experience, both as a private Nurse and as a patient, is totally at variance with that of Miss Landale, and I am firmly convinced that educated women, and educated women only, are suitable for private Nursing. I am entirely in accord with the views set forth by Miss Mollett in her letter this week, and I feel very grateful to her for so adequately expressing my own feelings regarding the matters under discussion.—Faithfully yours,

MARIAN C. PINCOFFS,
Registered Nurse, Late Sister-in-Charge
Home Hospital, Minehead.

Dunster, March 3rd.

MADAM,—It was not my intention to have trespassed again on your indulgence, only I fear, from the erroneous impressions my remarks have created in the minds of some of my critics, I cannot have expressed myself with sufficient clearness. I think, if they will do me the honour to glance again at my letter of February 3rd, they will observe that, so far from depreciating the advantages of education in a Nurse, I went the length of asserting that "It was impossible to overrate the importance and value to a woman of a good education." What I objected to was the proposal to exact a certain educational standard from all candidates alike, and the insistence on a preliminary education. My reasons I have already stated at length, and it is, therefore, unnecessary to recapitulate them. There can be no doubt that the woman who

is the most highly educated, *ceteris paribus*, will be the most successful in her profession; but if she possesses only education, and is devoid of aptitude and moral and physical fitness, she may succeed in passing the necessary examination, but will ever remain a failure as a Nurse. I quite agree with Miss Mollett, that it is very undesirable that all our Probationers should be drawn from the same class as our domestic servants; indeed, my arguments were hurled against limitations to any one class. The republic of Nursing should embrace all classes, personal fitness and a high purpose being the chief qualifications. The social status of a Nurse can have but little influence on her efficiency. Nature bestows her favours indiscriminately, and is no respecter of persons. What we want are the best women of every class, who can show that they have a real vocation for their work, and of this, I still maintain, a competitive examination is a very imperfect test.—Yours obediently,

JOSEPHINE L. DE PLEDGE.

National Health Society.

President :—HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G.



MRS. DICKSON, at the request of Lady Falmouth, has undertaken a Course of "Homely Talks," to be addressed to soldiers' wives, at Chelsea Barracks. They began on Friday, 2nd March, at 2.30, and will continue for eight weeks.

On March 12th, at 8.15 p.m., at the desire of the Rev. J. H. Cardwell, of St. Anne's Rectory, Soho Square, a lecture on "Health in the House" will be given to a mixed audience of workingmen, women, and children, in St. Anne's Schools, Soho Square.

Mrs. Dickson, is engaged to deliver lectures on "Hygiene," "First Aid," and "Physiology," two days a week for six months, to the girl-students of the Polytechnic Schools, Langham Street. Two of these lectures have already taken place, and been eagerly and largely attended. At the end of the Course, examinations will be held by examiners of the National Health Society.

Sister Katherine continues her lectures on Sick Nursing at 1, Orme Square, Hyde Park, W. (by kind permission of the Countess de Hamel de Manin), and attracts a steadily-growing audience.

On the 13th March, at 5 o'clock, an examination takes place for those who have attended Mrs. Dickson's lectures at the Board Schools, William Street, Hammersmith, when several candidates will present themselves.

Miss A. Kenealy is giving a Course of Six Weeks' lectures on "First Aid," in East Lothian. Thence she returns to Cambridgeshire to give a Spring Course on "Accidents, and how to treat them in the absence of a Doctor."

On Wednesday, March 7th, at 4 p.m. Dr. Solomon C. Smith delivered the fourth Lenten lecture, at 53, Berners Street, W. His subject was, "The Prevention of Consumption."



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