

"Oh, I shall become a Nurse!" But do they know or understand what "being a Nurse" means? Years of hard work, of education of mind and body, of experience combined with sympathy, and of complete self-abnegation. Nursing is no amusement or plaything with which to while away the time; it is the highest, noblest duty which woman can fulfil, provided that she does so rightly, earnestly, and with singleness of purpose. Yet, on the other hand, there are dangers, too, for those who have taken to Nursing as their vocation. I mean that, influenced solely, or even mainly, by scientific and professional interest, Nurses are liable to devote themselves to such cases only as are "interesting," and to let their want of interest become apparent to those whose ailments may be of a more ordinary and straightforward nature, thereby impairing their usefulness, and distressing the patients whose welfare is, after all, the chief consideration.

A great responsibility must, therefore, always rest on those whose duty it is to train Nurses. It devolves on them to distinguish between the sympathetic, kindhearted, judicious Nurse, and those who are deficient in the qualities absolutely necessary to constitute a good one. It devolves also on those who are considering the advisability of following so arduous and exacting a calling, to ask themselves seriously whether they are prepared to give their hearts as well as their powers of mind and body to the comfort and relief of those whose sufferings should claim their sympathy and consideration as well as their skill. If they are, they will have the happiness and privilege of realising that the field of work which lies before them affords scope for the highest instincts and qualities with which women are blessed.

THE DUCHESS OF TECK, as President of the Workhouse Nursing Association, was present at the Soirée arranged by its Committee at the Nineteenth Century Art Galleries, Conduit Street. Its object is to substitute trained and qualified Nurses in the London and provincial poor-houses for the incompetent attendance too often deemed good enough for the sick and aged inmates, and by special favour its members are called the "Mary Adelaide Nurses." The Duchess, who was accompanied by Lady WANTAGE, was received on arrival by Lady KNUTSFORD, Lady BELHAVEN and STENTON, Miss LOUISA TWINING, Miss C. J. WOOD, Sir EDWARD SIEVEKING, and Miss WILSON (hon. sec.), and was escorted to a small dais, from which she presented the medals and gratuities to those entitled to receive them. Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH gave a short address to the Nurses for whom also a musical programme had been arranged by the People's Concert Society.

AN interesting ceremony took place quite lately at Cambridge, when Miss M. N. CURETON, the able Matron of Addenbrookes' Hospital, Cambridge, was presented by the probationers with a handsome oriental brass tray and inlaid stand, as a token of their appreciation of the devoted manner in which she labours for the benefit of all—nurses and patients—under her care. It is a pleasure to report the gratitude expressed in the gift of Addenbrookes' Nurses to their much respected Matron.

ON the 27th May, the anniversary of her birthday, the Probationers of Addenbrooke's Hospital pre-

sented Miss ESTHER YOUNG, the Assistant Matron, with a handsome silver cream jug and sugar basin, and with an illuminated card expressing their good wishes. This token of their esteem is well merited by her, for during the two and a half years she has held the office of Assistant Matron, she has been most self denying and indefatigable in her efforts to promote their comfort and happiness in every way. It is entirely owing to her exertions that the ward for sick Nurses is now as tasteful and luxurious an apartment as the most fastidious invalid could desire, containing every device to alleviate suffering and to beguile the tedium of convalescence.

* * *

"LONGEVITY IN SCOTLAND."

Dr. MACGREGOR asked Sir George Trevelyan whether in the parish of Small Isles, Inverness-shire, with a population of 443, there was neither a resident doctor nor a midwife; that the nearest doctor lived eight miles from Eigg, across what was often a stormy sea; that lying-in women were exposed to great danger for want of proper attention; and that the infants were not infrequently born dead in the absence of timely aid; and what steps he proposed to take to remedy this state of things.

Sir G. TREVELYAN replied that this state of affairs was not exceptional in such outlying districts. He had been informed that amongst the persons who recently died in the district referred to the youngest was seventy-two and the oldest ninety-five. (Loud laughter.) There were no Government funds from which assistance could be given, and the Government would not be justified in treating one parish more favourably than another."

The members of the House of Commons must have a morbid and distorted sense of humour, to judge from the above extract. To the ordinary man a description of the sufferings of women in labour, and unable to obtain medical assistance and relief, and the subsequent death of their infants from neglect, would hardly seem to afford a field for jesting. And yet the "National Assembly of Gentlemen" apparently consider a jocular reply to such a question to be in good taste, and receive it with "loud laughter."

* * *

WE are glad to observe that the *Times of India* is speaking in the highest terms of Miss MARIAN HUMFREY'S "Manual of Obstetric Nursing." It says "In India the 'Manual of Obstetric Nursing' should find a welcome place on many bookshelves. Those with family responsibilities of their own, and especially that band of noble women workers engaged in the widespread and benevolent movement for alleviating the sufferings of native women and children, will rejoice to find that the Manual 'assumes' nothing, and will be more than satisfied with the clear capable manner in which everything is explained in its pages."

* * *

SOME time since, a surgeon in Philadelphia, U.S.A., volunteered to give a course of Ambulance lectures to some of the police force, who were promptly ordered to attend. Unfortunately, the lectures, as so

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)