

comfort of the patient, can or should be termed menial, and we are glad to observe that, editorially speaking, the *Trained Nurse* offers some wholesome advice to those Nurses who belong to what we might call the fevered-brow-soothing type, and who are usually oblivious of "droppings" and "sloppings." Our contemporary says:—

"Once in a while a wail of distress is heard from some Nurse concerning 'menial work' which is necessary to be performed along with her other duties. It is rather amusing to old Nurses who have been through the mill. These younger members of our working force are so filled with the importance of their personal attention to cases in their care, that they would like to ignore all else. That, in itself, is right and proper, but there need be no conflict between ward work and the care of a patient. It is just as necessary that the Nurse understands how to perform properly all work pertaining to neatness and cleanliness of the ward, as it is for her to know how to care for the patients. One line of work will never conflict with the other if the Nurse uses her judgment.

Modes of doing this work are noticed as closely as the care given the sick. Why should it not be so? The Nurse who does not understand in what condition a ward should be kept to promote the welfare and add to the health of her patients, is lacking in a very essential part of her education. It is the duty of every Nurse to be well posted with regard to sanitary affairs. The people expect as much information from her upon this subject as from a physician. One woman who is well informed upon any subject can exert more influence than a dozen men. If the Nurse has this knowledge her ward work will show it. It is only when she does not possess it that she bewails her lot and loudly protests concerning the so-termed 'menial work.'"

And yet when trained a high professional standard must be maintained, otherwise disorganization is apt to result.

A "NORTH COUNTRY" Urban Sanitary authority, in advertising for a Matron for the Fever Hospital under its charge, sets forth "that she will be required to act as Matron, to assist in the Nursing, to make herself generally useful, and to obey the orders of the Hospital committee and the medical officer having charge of the Hospital."

"To make herself generally useful" is unprofessional and vague, and might be translated in a very wide sense. It would be "useful" for the lady in question to answer the tradesmen's bell and to "polish up the handle of the big front door," or to whiten the steps—but these would hardly come under the legitimate requirements from a Matron. If we were asked to define the duties of a Matron, our first proposition would be that she was certainly not to make herself *generally* useful, but that she was to superintend the whole Nursing staff, and to order everything well for the comfort and welfare of the patients and inmates under her charge, but the "generally useful" has an after-taste, as suggesting a maid-of-all-work.

The obedience to superior officers of course is as it must be, but there is something about the wording of the advertisement that goes against the grain. As one of the famous gentlemen of the costermonger persuasion put it, "It isn't *wot* he says but the narsty way he says it." And so with the above advertisement.

THE "Trained Nurse" whose advertisement appears below is evidently an accommodating young person.

WANTED, by TRAINED NURSE, SITUATION to attend door in doctor's or dentist's house; would clean consulting room and instruments if required; non-resident.

In her desire for cleanliness, she has clearly forgotten that while it is quite professional to include the cleaning of instruments among the duties of "office-nurse," it is not wise to try and combine the office of housemaid with her professional duties, unless those duties are to render personal comfort to the sick. A very strict code of etiquette is wisely maintained by upper class domestic servants, and we are of opinion that it would be best for Nurses to follow their excellent example; the butler does not clean windows and boots, nor a *chef* black the kitchen range, but they perfect themselves in the work for which they are responsible, and thus order and discipline can be maintained in a household. At the same time, the blacking of boots and grates are both items of labour to be commended if well done.

We should like to see consulting-room Nurses an institution here, as they are in the United States. The position is a particularly pleasant one. It is also very delightful to a nervous woman patient to be greeted kindly and sympathetically by one of her own sex. In the case of a children's specialist the "office-nurse" is invaluable. And to a surgeon with a large operating practice it is of the utmost value to have his own Nurse always at hand to prepare his dressings and his instruments exactly according to his liking.

But in America, it is among the gynæcologists that the employment of a trained Nurse to be in attendance during consulting hours, is so universal. It would indeed be very difficult to find a gynæcologist of any standing in New York, Philadelphia and other leading cities of the States, who has not adopted the plan of having skilled Nursing at all times at the disposal of his patients.

The Nurse, frequently, is non-resident, and sometimes is shared by two or three medical men, whose practices are not sufficiently exten-

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