

have been so widely instrumental in elevating the work of trained Nurses to that of an honourable profession.

It is these women who should come forward at this time and lend to this movement of organisation the weight of their experience and knowledge."

"The place that trained Nurses hold in the National Society of Charities and Correction, is, we think, an exceedingly important one to the profession.

This society is the first to recognise Nurses as having a right to representation in those branches of philanthropic work, in which her influence has done so much in the way of reform.

The question was raised some time ago, by a number of prominent medical men, that training schools had no claim to representation in this society, and it was advised that they withdraw from the convention. After giving the subject much careful consideration, it was decided, by the committee having the matter in charge, that while training schools, from a technical standpoint, were not entitled to representation, the profession at large had a legitimate place in the work of charities and correction.

Another important point is, that it gives the women representing the profession in the convention, an opportunity to be seen and heard before an audience of non-professional people, and this we consider a progressive step."

Miss Bertha Elliot, of the Victoria Hospital, Halifax, U.S., writing on "Hospital Etiquette" in our contemporary, the *Nursing World*, says:—"To most of us the word etiquette gives an impression of something superficial, the perfunctory discharge of certain forms and ceremonies, the merely artificial application of the customs and rules which social law has laid down. It is, in a word, what is known as 'good form.' And after all, when we sift the main idea of this down to the bottom, we find that its roots are nurtured in truth. To act in such a way that others are benefited, that self is not obtruded, that the weaker may be protected, that there is no appearance of evil—these are the bulwarks of society, and tend to the conservation of the race. The same ideas had expression ages ago in the ancient Hebrew decalogue. Doubtless the ten commandments were evolved after long centuries of the struggling adolescence of the race. And what is the spirit of these but to love one's neighbour as one's self! To this the religion of Christ has added, if it is a weaker neighbour, *better* than one's self. This idea embodies the real substance of 'good form.'

The inmates of a large hospital should never forget that they are part of a public institution and the servants of the public, either of the city, or the state, or the province, as the case may be, and the public has the same right to look for good conduct and decorum as if they were in a public conveyance, or the pedestrians on a highway. Neither should they forget they are filling one of the highest vocations in life. To be continually associated with suffering, with shattered lives, with broken hearts, with health restored and hopes renewed, should quicken one's sympathies, uplift one's motives and stultify selfishness. The various elements of hospital life produce a combustion which, if fed properly, should burn away all the dross of bitterness and strife. A life passing courageously through these fires comes out nobler, and sometimes perhaps expresses itself in these longing words:—

"Oh, may I reach
That purest heaven, to be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony.

So shall I join the choir invisible
Whose music is the gladness of the world."

Out of the varied experiences of a large hospital we often see expanding that true nobleness of character whose natural garments are beautiful manners, purity of conversation, and loveliness of conduct."

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



WE are glad to announce that the Prize of one guinea, awarded for the best Nursing Notes of a Case, has for August been awarded to Miss Alice Dannatt, of Barton upon Humber, the late Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Royal Infirmary, Preston, for her Paper on "Stricture of the Oesophagus."

A RECENT article on the early days of the Queen tells us that she was extremely docile in all things except the taking of medicine, a failing common to most children. But a speedy cure of her objection was soon effected by the royal physician. He was wont to encourage his distinguished patient to swallow nasty potions and unpleasant draughts by telling her most delightful little stories when the function was over. On these stories and fables he established a "boycot" when the little Queen proved refractory. So like a sensible girl she learned to tolerate the means so that in the end she might have a chapter from Hans Andersen or a romance from the doctor's own mind.

THE following instructive letter concerning Poor Law Administration appeared in the *Times* last Wednesday, from Miss Louisa Twining:—

"All who are interested in this subject must have been gratified and encouraged by the brief discussion which took place in the House of Commons last Monday, and especially by the sympathetic notice of the 'Workhouse Nursing Association' by the President of the Local Government Board. It gives us good hopes of a further consideration of the subject in the future, when we may look forward to a still greater development of the system of efficient and trained Nursing. But in our efforts to extend this we are met by a great difficulty as regards the smaller workhouses of the country, in which it is impossible to expect that skilled and efficient women will take up the work, though the few patients may be in as great need of careful nursing as in the larger institutions, and night nursing may be as necessary. I have now before me a notice of one of these small buildings, where no Nurse is employed, and the Matron, with her multifarious duties, is expected to attend to the wants of the sick, infirm, and helpless; and there are many such instances as these. This leads me to dwell with satisfaction upon one suggestion in the debate I have referred to—viz., the classification not only in, but by, workhouses. This is no new

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)