

GILBERT PAR
KES PUT IT O
UT. 167z.

On the opposite wall is a like tablet, but with another name. At this place there was no friendly parson to decipher the local hieroglyphics, so we remained in darkness, except for the local milkman, who said it referred to the extinction of a fire by two devoted parishioners, soon after what he styled the "new church" was built. Why, oh why, did not they let it burn on?

The explanation did not sound likely, nor could we discern any trace of fire; but I can give no other.

Southwold is the only one of all this fine group that has escaped whole or partial demolition. It is in full working order, and is well worth seeing. Its chief claims to artistic distinction are the grand old oak stalls, and the still more beautiful painted rood-screen, which is quite the finest thing of the kind I have seen. The escape of all this is little short of a miracle; for one of Cromwell's regiments used the choir as a stable for a month, but, beyond scraping off some of the exquisitely painted angels' faces, they seem to have done wonderfully little harm.

Review.

"PROFESSIONAL WOMEN UPON THEIR PROFESSIONS."

THIS is an interesting book which Miss Bateson has brought out, and consists of a number of interviews with professional women, originally published in the *Queen*, but now collected into one volume. Almost every phase of woman's work is dealt with, and in each case Miss Bateson has taken the views of an expert, so that the book gives a great deal of valuable information about professions for women, and tells us not only what is being done, but what we may expect to see accomplished in the future.

In an interview with "An Eminent Lady Doctor" (why not "medical woman"?) whose name is withheld lest professional etiquette should be transgressed, the mysterious and anonymous type of her profession speaks hopefully of the future of medicine as an opening for women. She says, "My own opinion is that women might be largely employed as assistants to men physicians." This view will not commend itself to women who believe in the capacity of their own sex. There is no reason why a woman who has gone through an arduous course of scientific study should be an "assistant" to a man, unless as a temporary "pot-boiler."

The same "eminent person" inclined to think that women could do remarkably well in an ordinary family practice. "When there is a lady at the head of the house, I see no difficulty in prescribing, when necessary, for the husband or sons."

But difficulties—and grave ones—would arise, and it will be necessary from many points of view to divide the provinces. This the "doctor" allowed would be necessary in the case of quite young women practitioners. "The same distinction," she says, "that a patient makes between the trusted family physician and the young untried man exists in the case of women doctors."

Turning to the department of Nursing, we find a very interesting interview with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose views on the sweating of Nurses, and the need for Registration are too well known to be quoted here.

Mrs. Fenwick, when questioned as to whether Hospitals are satisfactorily governed at present, replied, "No;" she

thought the whole system, or want of system most unsatisfactory. Any rich, well-meaning man, even if he knew nothing about the management of Hospitals, could, on payment of a certain sum of money, become a Life Governor. The result of this plan was that the average governing body was entirely in the hands of its officials, who could manage the whole Nursing institution. "At the same time," continued Mrs. Fenwick, "I believe it is very important to keep the management of Hospitals in the hands of laymen. I dislike extremely all that tends towards 'Institutionalism' or the growth of a 'close Corporation.' When I think about this subject I am often reminded of the ancient Hospital of the Knights Templar, where it was the rule that a stream of clear water should run through every ward. It is just such a stream, the wholesome stream of public opinion, that we need to flow through our Hospitals. But the opinion must be educated, and that is why I wish so much to see more women upon Hospital Committees. Women have the leisure to give to the study of Hospital management which the average man of business lacks, and if we could encourage some women to do for Hospitals what Miss Louisa Twining has done for workhouses, many petty abuses would be swept away."

In the interview with Miss de Pledge on Infirmity Nursing, some light is thrown on the manufacture of the superficial Nurse Lecturer. Miss de Pledge says, "For the last two years we have been receiving pupils who wish to qualify themselves [Miss de Pledge might have put it, to acquire a French polish and pretence of knowledge on Nursing] as lecturers to the County Councils. These pupils," she continued, "come here for six months' training. They do not live under this roof [this means that even their short "training" is not the best they could get even in such a period, as they see no night work—a most valuable part of a Nurse's education]. At the end of their short training they are, of course, in no sense to be considered as Nurses, but the general experience in the treatment of the sick which they can gain here is, no doubt, of the utmost value to them, whether they become lecturers or take other posts."

No doubt their "short training" is of value to them in giving a shadow of excuse for donning uniform and posing before County Councils as "Nurses," and competent teachers. But there is no question that these "sham teachers" have brought an infinite amount of discredit, not only on the lecturing, but on the Nursing professions, because even the country folk soon discover the total ignorance, and inability of these young women, whom a contemporary has aptly termed "girl lecturers."

Having dealt with the medical and Nursing interviews we come next to dentistry, which at present is not a calling much patronised by English women, and indeed it is impossible at present, for the College of Surgeons refuses to allow women to go through the examination for the L.D.S. qualification.

Mrs. Boswell, whom Miss Bateson has taken as her model, is an American woman, and is not only a dentist herself, but the wife of a dentist. "I was always fond of dentistry," she said; "I was brought up in it, for my father was a dentist, and as a girl I was constantly trying experiments."

It is rather surprising to read what Mrs. Boswell says about dentistry being an unhealthy occupation. "Dentistry is not healthy work, and no woman who is not thoroughly robust should think of undertaking it. The standing, the stooping, and the nervous strain, are all injurious to health. True, at the end of the day one is free to go out, but often by that time one is altogether too tired to take exercise. I am bound to acknowledge by my own experience that

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