

### Lecturers à la Mode.

ON Monday afternoon Mrs. Clare Goslett, who had been described in the local press as "a friend of Lady Priestley," entertained an audience in the Pengelly Memorial Hall, Torquay, with a *rèchauffé* of Nurses à la Mode in true "tomahawk" style. Mrs. Goslett is a diplômée of the Sanitary Institute and lectures and writes on nursing, although hygiene and sanitation are, we believe, the subjects which she claims to have mastered with a few months' study, and upon which she professes to instruct the public. We are not aware that she has received any hospital training, or holds any position in connection with the training of nurses, whereby she might have obtained reliable information concerning them, and which would entitle her to express an opinion concerning their professional affairs.

Mrs. Goslett is reported to have opened her fusillade on the trained nurse with the remark "Twenty years ago there was not a nursing institution in the country," and the inaccuracy of this remark may be taken as the measure of Mrs. Goslett's knowledge concerning nursing generally. It is now upwards of fifty years since the great Elizabeth Fry inaugurated the first private nursing institution in Devonshire Square, and the organisation of St. John's House is about to celebrate its jubilee! Other instances might be quoted to convict Mrs. Goslett of ignorance of professional matters.

The following are a few of Mrs. Goslett's opinions concerning the training of nurses:—

"They were at last waking up to the fact that the hospital nurses of to-day were a great deal over-trained."

"Other drawbacks to the system were that no enquiry was made as to the character of young women before they commenced their training, and at the end of their three years' term all were granted equal certificates without regard to differences of efficiency."!!

"In the *Nineteenth Century* Lady Priestley had called attention to the disgraceful social scandals arising from the sending of young and pretty nurses to tend young men patients. To do that was neither fair to the nurse nor to those who employed her. It was time that steps were taken to alter things when they heard people talking of nurses as man-traps, and when it was necessary to advise young professional men, entering hospitals for study, to give it forth to the nurses that they had no means and no prospects."

"Further, Mrs. Goslett felt bound to lay the charge of cruelty against some of the trained nurses. Many of them were hard and merciless."

"Mrs. Goslett also accused nurses of a lack of reverence in the presence of suffering and death."

"With regard to the fees charged, the lecturer suggested that, for persons of limited means, nurses with a single year's training should be provided at about a guinea a week."!!

Finally, "Mrs. Goslett recommended heads of households to undergo sufficient training, or reading, to be able to supervise nurses, and to keep them in their proper position. To that end a few months in a country hospital like the Torbay would be a splendid training for young people."!!

### EPILOGUE.

For ignorance of her subject, for reckless mis-statements, for vulgar inuendo, for cruel misrepresentations, for lack of womanly sympathy, and finally for general foolishness, commend us to the opinions, statements, criticisms, and suggestions of "Lady Priestley's friend," Mrs. Clare Goslett, Lecturer à la Mode.

### Professional Reviews.

WE have received a copy of the second part of "A Book for Every Woman," by Dr. Jane H. Walker, published by Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co., price 2s. 6d. The book is clearly arranged, and the type is good, and pleasant to read. The object of the writer is to "raise the standard of general health among women," and we think that her lucid advice, if followed by her readers, should aid them very materially to attain this end.

Dr. Walker instructs her readers as to their sanitary powers and duties as citizens, and the information given by her upon this subject is most valuable.

The chapter on food and beverages is also excellent, and the one on woman's education affords much ground for thought.

Dr. Walker's views upon occupations for women ring with the wisdom of one who is mistress of her subject.

To one remark, however, we must take exception. In speaking of the posts which may be held by women under the County Councils, Dr. Walker says: "It is advisable, for the nursing lectureships, to spend at least six months' work in a hospital or infirmary." We cannot concede that it is right for any woman to attempt to instruct others when her own experience is so very limited, and her capacity for imparting knowledge is therefore inadequate. In our opinion no woman should be eligible, as a County Council lecturer on nursing, who has not had at least three years training, and beyond this she must possess the power of teaching pleasantly that which she knows herself, a by no means universal gift.

The book closes with an Appendix, containing a list of the public bodies on to which women can be elected.

We commend this book to nurses, feeling sure that they will find in it much that is both interesting and instructive.

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