

most ignorant class of servants! It requires no training to look well after a baby; it merely requires intelligence, honesty and kindness—three qualities born in a lady. Why, then, does she not turn them to money value when the opportunity lies at her hand.

“Let a few courageous girls undertake this branch of Nursing, instead of smothering all the instincts of their maidenly nature by making Military or Hospital Nurses of themselves, and their example will soon be followed. Girls want only to be shown the way to work, and their aptitude for self-sacrifice and their tendency towards enthusiasm will speedily do the rest. The Lady Nurse-girl would ere long work her way to her proper place in public opinion, and would force public opinion to respect her. Said an invalid friend to me the other day, ‘It is so delightful to have a Lady Nurse to attend on me; she is ready to do anything, and does not stand on her dignity as an ignorant Nurse is apt to do. We are almost like mother and daughter.’ And so it might be with the Lady Nurse-girl. Her dignity is inherent in herself; it would be shown not so much by what she did not do, as by doing all her work thoroughly and well. If, therefore, I would close one branch of Nursing to young girls, I would open to them one far larger, and one for which they are admirably fitted; one also that should appeal to the maternal instinct that lies close to every woman’s heart.”

### NURSING ECHOES.

\* \* *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

I HEAR that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to accept a copy of the most recent book on Nursing—“Our Nurses, and the work they have to do.” As perhaps most of my readers know, it is written by Misses O’Neill and Edith A. Barnett. The latter lady, I believe, has for some time past lectured on “Domestic Hygiene” for the National Health Society, but I am told is not a Trained Nurse. Her Majesty’s acceptance of the work, however, is only one more instance of the great interest the Queen has always shown in Nursing matters. I am living in hope that some day it may be brought to Her Majesty’s knowledge that the Civil Nurses deserve some recognition for all the arduous and often dangerous duties they perform.

It may have been wise and even necessary in the Middle Ages to give lavish rewards to every one engaged in military service, and practically to

ignore all benefits bestowed upon the State by non-combatants. But at this era, unless our boasted progress is a pure fiction, and our efforts to secure peace are hollow shams, it certainly seems to me that more rewards should be given to those who devote their lives, their health and strength, and all their powers of mind and body, to prevent or cure disease, to save suffering, and to alleviate the many dreadful ills to which human flesh is heir. A Physician or a Surgeon only becomes known as a successful man after many years of untiring and utterly unselfish work. Out of every twenty thousand Medical Men, about ten rise to the highest honour with which a grateful country rewards their life-long work for the good of the commonwealth—an empty title of Sir as a prefix to the names they have made famous throughout the world.

\* \* \*

A SUCCESSFUL clergyman—that is to say, one who has relations or friends in the Government—without necessarily any particular merit on his part, receives a good living, a well-paid Cathedral sinecure, or, in fifty instances, a large income, and temporal rank in the Peerage. A lawyer, with all due deference to his calling be it said, is successful exactly in the measure in which he works for his own interests, and is rewarded by an appreciative State with numberless privileges and emoluments, and has the chance of the highest posts in the Government held out to him in addition. But a Nurse gets less recognition than even a Doctor. And as if to perpetuate, as far as possible, the old mediæval plan of only rewarding those engaged in slaughtering their fellows, the Doctors who are most rewarded, and the only Nurses who are rewarded at all, by the State, are those who are engaged in the military service of the country. I am sure that if the present anomalous state of affairs was brought to the notice of Her Majesty, it would very quickly be amended, and the work done by Nurses in Civil Hospitals receive the recognition it so thoroughly deserves.

\* \* \*

ONE’S national *amour propre* is hurt to think how differently they treat those who are useful to the State in other countries. I have been incited to write the above by a paragraph which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* this week, and which was as follows:—“Two ladies are down in the list published to-day of the recipients of Crosses of the Legion of Honour on the occasion of the New Year. These are Madame Coralie Cahen, who distinguished herself in the ambulances at Metz during the Franco-German war, and Sister Eveline, a nun, who has been attached to the Naval and Military Hospital at Lorient, for the space of thirty-five

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)