

fortunate, should she happen to be under the orders of a careful Sister, who will, even amid her own pre-occupation, keep an eye on her new hand, and, with gentle consideration, will give her something very particular to do with the sponges, or anything else that will take up her attention thoroughly till the first plunge has been made, and the operation is fairly on its way.

After all, it is generally only the "first step that hurts," as the proverb says; the very first touch of the knife is what usually upsets a young spectator, and if looking at that can be avoided, the remaining details are more easily borne; and the interest of the occasion, the silence and wrapt attention of the assembly, not to speak of the effect of so much anæsthetic permeating the atmosphere of the room, generally soothes and quiets the nerves after a few minutes. And yet how grateful one has felt to one's superior, when suddenly sent on a message (it does not matter if the article to be fetched was in the least wanted or not) just at the supreme moment, when, with failing heart, one has confessed to oneself, "I can't stand this much longer"; and the fresh air outside, though but for a few minutes, has pulled one together, and enabled one to return with braced up nerves, and to get through this first ordeal with flying colours, or, at any rate, without making a fool of oneself.

Fortunate, also, is the Nurse who begins her apprenticeship under a calm, courteous operator—a master of his art, who comes into the Theatre quietly, with a placid smile, takes an almost imperceptible glance all round to assure himself that he has all he needs, allows no talking about, or examination of, the case until the patient is well under the anæsthetic, and then proceeds leisurely, and with that evident presence of mind and enjoyment of his own skill, which gives such confidence to his assistants, and encourages them to take the same interest in the affair that he does himself. He is apparently in no hurry, does not lose his manners, but asks with civility for what he wants. He is full of resources, and, like a good workman, does not complain of his tools, but when one will not do, he quietly substitutes another; and if he has any fault to find with the preparations made for him, will do it privately, in a few kindly words, when the hurry and bustle is over.

M. F. E. H.

SEVERITY.

"THORNS in the flesh we all must bear;  
Life's trials are severe.  
If here the crown of thorns we wear,  
It is to humble and prepare  
Us for another sphere."

VINCIT QUI SE VINCIT.

IN a recent article in this paper, some observations regarding the discomfort caused by a Trained Nurse have brought to my mind recollections of similar cases related to me at various times, by various people, to the effect that Trained Nurses are an experience to be avoided if possible, and in one authentic case the patient was nine months before recovering, not from her illness, but from—her Nurse! This might well be considered an exaggeration, but it is a fact, and I am glad to know that the Nurse was dismissed from the institute to which she belonged; had we possessed Registration her name would have been removed from the Register, and consequently some protection afforded to the sick people who are unable to protect themselves. Under existing circumstances there is nothing to prevent this Nurse from obtaining the care of other sick persons, and should opportunity occur, repeating the tragedy, or what might have been a tragedy, at will.

It is a sad fact that these Nurses are not the uneducated women of the olden time, but thoroughly Trained Nurses of the present day; and this, I think, is one of the strongest arguments in favour of Registration, and a Registration requiring that, amongst qualifications of proficiency, the candidate should produce upon her certificate a combined testimonial from her Matron and some members of the Medical staff, to the effect that she has been uniformly consistent and kind to the patients. I am aware that the general conduct of a Nurse is considered in the granting of her certificate, but I do not know if it be an invariable rule in Hospitals to consider, not only absence of flagrant unkindness, but evidence of kindness to the patients. It is in the power of the Sisters, and many consider it a duty, to observe the manner and form some conclusion of the spirit of their Nurses, and to report consistently and impartially of their moral treatment of the patients. If this rule were uniformly observed, kindness would be generally understood as a necessary qualification of a Nurse. Sick persons are undoubtedly sometimes trying, and frequently unreasonable, but this is one of the things Nurse should take into consideration at the beginning of her career, and however clever she be, find some other field of labour if she fail in ruling her spirit, for the mind of a sick person is most likely to be sick with the body, and as much in need of gentle treatment. In a Medical man, kindness of manner is important, but it is not absolutely essential, for he is skilful, a little roughness can be endured during his short visit, in consideration of his undoubted skill; but from a Nurse, who is with the patient hours and days, and even weeks, the public cannot, and have no right

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