

November, 1890. I came alone, not knowing a word of the English language, but with a firm resolution to go forward to victory. Hard weary years of suffering and sacrifices followed, together with an intense home longing. I worked under great difficulties, not knowing the English language well, nor the American methods of treatment. Seeing the advantage of knowledge, I went to the Woman's Hospital in New York, where I took a post-graduate course, and passed satisfactory examinations, and after doing some private nursing in that city—applied for the post of Superintendent of Nurses at the Galveston Hospital, and was selected from ten candidates." Miss Kindbom has held her present position for eighteen months, with great distinction, and enjoys a salary of thirteen hundred dollars, so that her "ambition," her courage and endurance, have already brought substantial and well-deserved reward.

A MORAL—AMBITION!

My little Sun (indeed, that is how the mothers of one man child spell it) tells me "that the fairies have deserted England, frightened by sound and steam, and now find their homes in the deep untrodden valleys of the North." Indeed, I think these sprites show some wisdom, and yet is it not sad to realize that the beneficent gifts of the fairy godmother will be ours no longer? It is recorded that the Queen of the Fairies grew angry with the folly and greed of mothers who asked for baby daughters, fortunes of Gold without Work, of Beauty without Intellect, Rank without Obligations, and Power without Experience, so that she took counsel with a Fury, who advised that forms of suffering should blight for one generation the lives of women, and that the seeds of ambition should be cast to the four winds of heaven instead of being reserved, as heretofore, for the sole inspiration of man. The Fury knew the value of ambition in the attainment of human enterprise; she therefore opined that unsatisfied ambition in the lives of women would create for them the acme of suffering; she calculated, however, without the force of resistance, which generations of self-control, and personal abnegation, have acquired for us, and the would-be curse has become our greatest blessing. To those who may aspire, attainment is possible; to those who do aspire, success is probable!

E. G. F.

The Asylum Workers.

THE First Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association was held on Monday last at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street. Sir James Crichton Browne presided. The report was, upon the motion of Miss Honnor Morten, taken as read. In the course of his remarks, in moving its adoption,

Sir James Crichton Browne congratulated the Association upon its success, which already seemed assured. It had now 2500 members, and fresh recruits were still coming in. The strength of the Association lay in the fact that it was an association of workers of all classes—matrons, chaplains, medical officers, as well as attendants. The medical element should, in his opinion, always preponderate. Any attempt to ignore the medical officers must be disastrous. The improvements which had already taken place in asylums were mainly due to their initiative, and their guidance was essential if the Association was not to degenerate into a trade union. He said this advisedly. The mission of the Association was a lofty one, and class and selfish interests must take a subordinate place.

Sir James commented also upon the value of the Journal of the Association to "focus the views of the members, and to facilitate the exercise of that inalienable right of every British subject—the right to petition and protest." Did we hear aright, or was this a joke? This, from Sir James Crichton Browne, is incomprehensible!

The Chairman referred to the attitude of offensive self assertion, which, he said, was adopted by some persons with regard to Asylum Workers. He had heard them spoken of in public as the "scum of the nursing profession," utterly unworthy to be placed in the same category with their hospital trained sisters. Such remarks could only be the outcome of crass ignorance, or of overweening conceit. (N.B.—We fancy Sir James got a little mixed in his facts just here. The now historic expression, "the scum of the nursing profession," was applied in the *Hospital* newspaper to the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and upheld by Sir Henry Burdett as a perfectly fair criticism.) He thought that if asylum workers spent, first of all, one year in a general hospital or in the infirmary ward of an asylum, they were nurses to whom the most exclusive nursing corporation in the world should be open. He noticed also, that those who most strenuously opposed their admission to membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association, invited them by advertisement to a Nurses' Home of Rest. With regard to Homes of Rest, he thought it was advisable that asylum workers should get away from Asylum associations, and that they should not go to Homes where they would meet other asylum workers. They would probably talk "shop," and discuss their work, their patients, and "even the Visitors in Lunacy." The discussion of the Visitors in Lunacy in the freedom of a nurses' sitting room, without the presence of a chairman to put on the closure, was evidently a proceeding which appeared neither pleasant nor desirable to Sir James Crichton Browne. Referring to the suggestion made in the Journal that university women should adopt the vocation of asylum attendants, the Chairman did

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