

We have before us, to-day and to-morrow, six very interesting papers, to be read by ladies who have all a practical experience of the questions they have chosen to speak to us on; and after the papers we have questions, some of which, especially those for to-morrow afternoon are of absorbing interest. Before asking Miss Mollett to read her paper on the Matron's duty to her profession, I will ask you to make up your minds to discuss each point freely. Our difficulty has always been to induce ladies to express to the meeting the excellent ideas they will only make to the lady next to them. Let each one of us make up our minds to contribute to the success of the Conference by expressing our opinion freely.

Let me once more express, as Chairman of this Association, the very great pleasure the Executive Committee have in meeting you here to-day, and the hope that our meeting may prove so interesting and useful that we may see our way to repeat it annually."

We have printed Miss Stewart's opening address in full. The reports of the papers, and the discussions which follow, are considerably condensed. The full text of the papers will be published at a later date.

The first paper was read by Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants Infirmary, on

**"THE DUTY OF THE MATRON TO HER PROFESSION."**

Before beginning this paper I feel it necessary to apologise for its sketchy nature, and for my

presumption in undertaking to speak upon a subject others would have approached so far more worthily. As a matter of fact the whole time I was compiling these few sheets, I seemed to be reading myself a severe lecture on the many things I ought to do but didn't.

"The profession of a Matron, in the sense in which we are using the word, is that of nursing. When a nurse becomes a Matron, she does not

leave her profession and enter another one, she remains a nurse with the same aims and objects as she had before. Her duties are still the carrying out of medical orders — the efficient and proper nursing of the patients — the maintenance of discipline and order in the wards — only she approaches the subject from another and wider point of view, that is all. I do not hesitate to say that the very first duty of a Matron to her profession is simply to bear herself throughout her career in such a manner as to be a credit to it, and if she does her work in the simple and conscientious



MISS MOLLETT,

Matron, Royal South Hants Infirmary, Southampton.

spirit of an honourable woman nothing higher, or better, can be asked of her. . . .

Then, knowing you have done your best for your own particular hospital, you are apt to feel as if you had done your whole duty by your profession, and as if no more could possibly be required of you. But there you are wrong. For when you take a post that, more or less, even if in a humble way marks you as leader, as one successful in your profession or calling, your

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