

until his death; no woman having been near him throughout his illness. It is cases like the above which bring home to us what is happening over and over again in those Crown Colonies, where trained nurses are as yet unattainable. The financial aspect is, so far, encouraging. This satisfactory state of affairs is largely due to the kindness of Sir Squire Bancroft, who last July, gave a reading of Dicken's Christmas Carol to a large audience in the Hall of the Imperial Institute, kindly lent for the occasion. Owing to the assistance thus afforded by the Council of the Imperial Institute, the expenses were enormously reduced, and nearly £240 were added to the funds of the Association.

SIR DYCE DUCKWORTH'S observation at the meeting of the Jubilee Institute that the three necessary keynotes to a nurse's successful work are "obedience to discipline, sympathy and self-effacement" was an absurd dictum. In moderation these qualities may be virtues, but slavishly carried to excess, as dogmatically advised by Sir Dyce Duckworth, they would undermine the self-respect of the individual, and demoralise the community. Sir Dyce Duckworth's views on the "whole duty of women," expressed in and out of season, evidently emanate from an atrophied understanding and complete ignorance of the progress made by women now-a-days in every field of thought and work. Sir Dyce Duckworth metaphorically addresses women thus—"Worm—crawl."

A TRUE nurse should certainly be in touch with human nature, her sympathies should be wide and deep, but this beautiful quality can only be the result of wide and deep culture, and knowledge of men and matters; the squaw woman is proverbially unsympathetic in the truest sense, and the nurse who is forbidden to gauge her own human responsibility, her own individual duty, will hardly attain to any degree of sympathy with suffering human nature.

DISCIPLINE is good, very good, and obedience to higher laws beneficial to the community, but here again the human *ego* must reserve judgment. With life came also the priceless jewel of Conscience. Is it at the bidding of a Sir Dyce Duckworth that we are to deny the existence of this great spiritual gift? Or rather is it not somewhat impious upon the part of one human creature to impose imperious limitations upon another?

SELF-EFFACEMENT also has its times and seasons. The self-effacement of Florence Nightingale, for instance, during the gruesome mismanagement of the medical department in the Crimean War, would hardly have been conducive to the mitigation of human suffering. Her genius has stamped her for all time as the most original sanitary teacher the world has ever seen. It would take

innumerable Duckworths to depreciate her power of initiative and her fame. Such grace is of God. The truly great are ever duly modest. They have realised infinitude.

At a weekly meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Guardians, Mr. Preston Thomas, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors was present, and addressed the board on the question of the arrangement of relief districts and the condition of the workhouse, and he pointed out that in his opinion the nursing staff—one day nurse and one night nurse—in the hospital wards, which consisted of between 50 and 60 patients, was inadequate to admit of proper attention being given the patients. The inevitable result was that pauper help, which had brought so much scandal in some unions, had to be resorted to. Mr. S. Perrett, in reply, said the matter had been thoroughly considered, and the nurses had said they wanted no other help. He believed that the nine or ten paupers who assisted the nurses were capable people, and it did them good to do the work.

THIS reply of Mr. Perrett's opens up a question of some importance in the nursing of infirmaries. We have heard from several Matrons of these institutions that, since the new order issued by the Local Government Board, prohibiting the use of pauper nurses, but little improvement has taken place in the stamp of nurse usually engaged in county infirmaries. A so-called trained nurse is selected by the Guardians, and placed in charge of many more patients than she can attend to properly; and like the nurses at Bridgewater, in charge of sixty patients, they prefer to press into the service half-a-dozen paupers, than to have more nursing help, and do the work themselves. This system will ultimately lead to many abuses, and should be put down with a firm hand. We hope that Mr. Preston Thomas will keep his eye on the management of the Workhouse Infirmary at Bridgewater, as the nursing is notoriously inadequate at that institution.

ON Monday, at the Epsom Petty Sessions, Cornelius Leary and William George Field, late attendants at the Banstead Lunatic Asylum, were prosecuted at the instance of the London County Council for assaulting one of the inmates, contrary to the Lunacy Act. It appeared that one of the asylum inspectors saw Field having an altercation with a lunatic, and blows were exchanged. Leary then went behind the patient and kicked him, either with his knee or foot, afterwards striking him on the back with his fist. He then put his left arm round the patient's neck and struck him with his clenched fist on the jaw. The patient was removed to another ward, and both attendants were suspended. Instead of waiting to be dealt with by the Visiting Committee, the defendants left the asylum, and warrants were issued for their

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