

woman, but separated from her husband, with no children; better educated than Assunta, and very nice to talk to. Her answer to my hope that she would not be upset (*impressionata*) by our dear sick folk (as most of her compatriots make it a point of honour to be) was really admirable.

'No, Signora, per dir vero mi fanno più compassione che impressione.' (They move me more to compassion than upset me.)

However this admirable sentiment was short-lived, for after an hour in the small women's ward this morning, she developed such a headache that she lost courage and on my presenting her to Padre Filippo as a new pupil nurse, she said doubtfully that she *hoped* to continue, but feared her health would not suffice.

To cheer her, I repeated her admirable speech of yesterday to Padre Filippo. He smiled very humorously as he answered, 'It seems to me it is quite the contrary now, *i malati vi fanno più impressione che compassione.*' (The patients upset you more than they move you to compassion.) And he was right; for the time being she felt merely repugnance, poor young woman.

After he left I talked to her quietly, telling her I had no doubt her health would suffice, for there could never be hard enough work to try it in these small wards, and with so many *infermieri inserviente*. But that she alone knew whether her *will* would suffice, or could be sufficiently developed to carry her through the difficulties with which nursing, like everything else worth doing, was undoubtedly surrounded.

I added that we could not tell if she would have cleverness and tenderness enough to satisfy us; but advised patience and perseverance, as it was almost always difficult at first to know if one's vocation were real or not.

November 13th.

Pupil No. 2 has been behaving in a most erratic manner, coming for a day or two, then staying away for two or three, saying she was ill. We have to be patient, because the idea of nursing is so utterly new here (except for people of the lowest class) that it would be foolish to stamp out a being who has had the courage to imagine she might embrace it as a profession. She brought us another pupil, too, who really has a vocation, but is a good deal too young to come or go alone, and who consequently *can* only come the days her friend elects to be well enough to bring her.

Of course, it is impossible to put any system into their work under such conditions, but there seems no remedying possible for the moment.

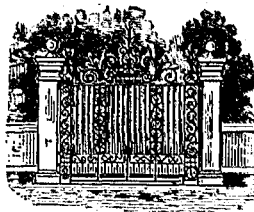
(To be continued.)

The Conviction of Medical Men.

THE attempt which is being made by the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association to secure such an amendment of the Medical Act as will deprive any man convicted of criminal conduct of his diploma and degrees, and of his qualification to practice, has met with an unexpected opposition. The Council of the Royal College of Physicians declares that the particular clause of the amending Bill would infringe its privileges. A conciliatory conference, to be attended by members of the Bills Committee and of the Council of the College has been suggested.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



IN Dr. A. T. Schofield's lecture at the Polytechnic on "Women's Work: its Success and Failure," he wisely said, "Men and women could not be put on the same physical equality, and many hardships that had fallen upon women had arisen from the want of recognition of that great truth. Although physically inferior, woman was evolutionally superior to man. As to the brain and mental qualifications of woman, it was foolish to say a woman's brain was inferior to that of a man. There was no doubt whatever, from the most recent researches, that women had rather more brain in proportion to their body than men. Women were better than men for continuous mechanical work at low pressure. The first essential for success in women's work, was that women should recognise their limitations, and not seek to overpass them. He did not think women could ever look to obtain the physique of men, and therefore they could not compete equally on physical grounds. The physical inferiority must be recognised in all legislation dealing with the subject. Men guarded their physique better than women by means of co-operation, but he maintained that it would be many years before women successfully learned to co-operate; at present they undersold and underbid each other.

Dr. Schofield did not, however, give the true reason for this apparent disloyalty of women to women, which springs from their terrible economic dependence in the body politic. From personal experience of the methods employed within the Royal British Nurses' Association to nullify the co-operation of trained nurses, he could a tale unfold, which would point a moral to women employed in all professions and trades, and that is that the lion and the lamb—the employer and employed—must not lie down together; in other words, they must organise and co-operate independently of one another, if the weaker is not to be gobbled up by the stronger animal.

It will be welcome news to many to learn that the Duke of Norfolk has again decided upon making a considerable addition to the staff of women clerks employed at St. Martin's-le-Grand. At a forthcoming examination, no less than 100 positions will be offered for competition, and it is probable that an even larger number of candidates will be appointed.

A hundred positions is the largest number offered for competition in recent years, and this accession will bring the total number of women clerks employed at the G.P.O. alone up to 1,500. Of course these women clerks have a different status from the female employees at St. Martin's-le-Grand who are known as girl and women sorters, and form another considerable body. The policy of increasing the number of female employees has been steadily pursued by the present Postmaster-General, and his Grace has expressed his complete satisfaction with the result. The agitation against the increase, which prevailed in the various departments, has now subsided.

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