

to govern people without their knowing it, or at least, without their objecting to it. How? I cannot explain in a lecture. You know as well as I, because—well, because—you are women as well as nurses.

At the risk of wearying you by repetition I am going to give you some of the things you must be to be a successful nurse. You must be clean to fanaticism in work and person, orderly, punctual, obliging and cheerful in action under all circumstances, thorough in your work and care of the sick, dignified and quiet in manner, alert and watchful and unfaltering in your devotion to duty, letting the patient and his welfare stand first and before everything. This and much more you must be, but these should be present even in the average nurse.

That this is not the case, and that there are some who do not possess these important traits we cannot doubt, and we must look the fact in the face that there are nurses at large who are by no means ideal, and whose blunders and defects bring discredit upon all of us.

Don't give way to the temptation of being spoilt by praise and presents, too freely given by your patient's friends, when laden with gratitude for a spared life. Some can rise above it, many cannot. More than one good woman has been so up-lifted by over-generous patients and their friends, she never comes down to the quiet level of ordinary mortals, but lives uncomfortably and unpleasantly on a pedestal of superiority, a dreadful warning to her sister nurses and a horrible example of indiscreet generosity. Remember, as a safeguard against such a result, that, after all, you have done but your duty, the failure of which would have been little short of a crime.

Let me ask you to help to discover those nurses so-called, who without a diploma (or a written guarantee that they have graduated from a reputable school) are in the ranks of private nursing; women, who to my knowledge, have been dismissed from a training school for grave reasons and who ask and receive twenty dollars a week for their services and who masquerade as graduates, going so far as to wear the full uniform, including the cap, of the school they do not represent and which would not employ them in any capacity. If you learn of such a woman it is clearly your duty, from my point of view, to report her to the registry to which she belongs, where she will be weeded out very quickly. I regret to say they succeed occasionally in deceiving a physician so completely that they nurse for him alone, and are sent directly to the patient's house, and when this happens, no one is likely to suspect the fraud being practised upon the public, the patient or the doctor.

Intimacy is a rock upon which many founder, the circumstances of illness throwing a nurse into close relationship with strangers for a short time, often resulting in a violent fancy on the part of the patient for the nurse, and, in the privacy of the sick room, confidences are given and exchanged which, in many cases, had better have been left unsaid. Far be it from me to insinuate or believe that our sex is wanting in that virtue of silence ascribed by men, to men alone, but "the unspoken word is thine," and often the spoken word scatters like seed on fruitful ground and bears an hundredfold. Avoid any form of gossip or "shop" with your patient, and never tell her your own troubles interesting as they may be to you; to her, if she be nervous or excitable it may do harm, and, under any circumstances, it is a strain to listen to the woes of others. You are the rock for her to lean upon, and you must never expect to change places with your patient and lean upon her. Do not serve up for her daily fare gruesome tales of the hospital, or harrowing descriptions of the ailments and operations performed upon her neighbour or your last case; she will confer a benefit upon you, and all nurses if she refuses to listen to you.

A nurse, volunteering for army services, recently told me, "that she found the 'oath of neutrality' to be a stumbling-block in her path." I fear she had the feminine desire not only to "take sides" but to be able to express her opinion of the enemy if necessary, for I am sure she did not mean with regard to the actual care of the sick.

I have thought since that, as nurses, it would be wise if in times of peace as well as in those of war, we took a silent oath of strict neutrality in regard to the physicians for whom we nurse, for it is contrary to the ethics of nursing to give an opinion, and, if you are wise you will evade it. If you cannot be loyal to a physician you should cease to nurse for him.

A nurse has almost always a range of charges, and should take into consideration the circumstances of the individual case, and the purse of her employer and vary accordingly. Some consider that private nurses are over-paid, this may be true occasionally, but I maintain that it is generally impossible.

Do you, the laity, think that money can adequately pay for the skill which has brought to the bed-side renewed strength, and perhaps even the "sweet boon of life"?

"If she have fought with death and dulled his sword;

If she have given back our sick again,
Is it a little thing that she has wrought?

Then Life and Death and Motherhood be nought."

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