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## Editorial.

### THE MORAL OF VICTORY.

"Self reverence, self knowledge, self control, these three alone lead life to sovereign power."

THE one topic of the past week has been the relief of Mafeking, and nowhere has it been received with greater enthusiasm than amongst trained nurses. To General Baden-Powell, the hero of the hour, the gratitude of the nation cannot be sufficiently expressed, for he has demonstrated, not only the tenacity of purpose, in which the British nation has never been deficient, but that the qualities which go to make a great commander are more than brute force, and physical courage. He is a man of noble ideals, of unceasing industry, of abstemious living, his physical nature being subordinate to, and controlled by, his will. The lesson of the war indeed has been that our greatest generals are men of this type. Bobs—dear Bobs—whom we one and all not only trust implicitly as a commander, but reverence as a man, Kitchener—"the man who made himself into a machine"—and by whose genius our honour has been retrieved in the Sudan, and lastly General Baden-Powell, are all men of "plain living and high thinking," men who have never become enervated by luxurious ways of life, but whose habits are

simple even to austerity; men, moreover, of high aspirations, of nobility of character, and of modest bearing. The great commander is not made in a moment. The qualities he evinces in the time of action or peril have been developed in him in previous years of hard work and patient endeavour, and although no doubt to all this must be added that touch of genius which ever differentiates a born leader and ruler of men from his kind, yet without personal nobility even genius fails in strenuous and difficult circumstances.

Is it not a fact that many of our officers are incapable of attaining the highest because their lives in ordinary circumstances are cast in easy and luxurious moulds? The man of fashion, of self-indulgent habits, of epicurean tastes, cannot in a moment become the man of steel who wins laurels for the Empire, and lustre for his own name.

Nurses will do well to take the lesson to heart. The women who made their profession what it is worked under the hardest conditions, lived on the simplest fare, and strove towards high ideals. The lot of the nurse of the present day is fallen in pleasant places. Let her keep her ideals, and aim at simplicity of life, if she does not desire to see her profession decline under the corroding and insidious influence of self-indulgence.

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