

directly responsible. When, therefore, a physician pays his daily visit, and everything is in order, he recognizes that the general work of the ward, as controlled by the Sister, is good, but how much is to be attributed to the work of each individual nurse he has no means of judging. Again, though a nurse may be smart, and quick at the time of the doctor's visit, and although she may be a good subordinate, she may lack many important qualifications necessary to make her a good head. She may, for instance, be deficient in organising power, she may lack stability and discretion, she may give in easily if not kept up to the mark, or she may fail in the tenderness and sympathy necessary if she is to make her patients happy and comfortable during the many hours when no doctor is present. It is, indeed, in the careful performance of the "little nameless unremembered acts" that some of the most sterling qualifications of a nurse are demonstrated. These a medical man has no means of testing, neither does he know whether the nurse, whose work is done well, is a woman capable of living amicably with others, or whether her "angles" would introduce an element of discord into any community of which she was elected a member. On all these counts, therefore, a medical man, if he is wise, will refuse to be responsible for the personal selection of nurses, and will refer those who desire his assistance to the competent authorities—namely, responsible members of the nursing profession.

There is, further, another aspect of the question—namely, the courtesy due from one profession to another. In no profession are the members more tied and bound by the rules of etiquette than in that of medicine. No medical man, even if called in to attend a patient, would think of doing so without the consent of his ordinary medical adviser. The unwritten law of the profession forbids. Surely the medical profession would do well to establish the principle that the selection of nurses for posts in the nursing world should be referred to the heads of the nursing profession. As a mere matter of courtesy this is incumbent upon it. Moreover medical practitioners would resent, and rightly resent, any expression of opinion on the part of nurses as to their qualifications for appointments. It is therefore reasonable that nurses should expect the medical profession to refer the selection of nurses for nursing work to the heads of their own profession.

Annotations.

THE PRINCE ALFRED HOSPITAL GRADUATES' UNION.

WE predicted some little time ago that other hospitals would follow the lead given by St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and establish Leagues of their certificated nurses. Now the news comes from New South Wales that the idea of forming a League of the nurses of the Prince Alfred Hospital is being considered and cordially approved by the certificated nurses of the hospital. Already one meeting, convened by Miss S. B. McGahey, the Matron, has been held with the object of establishing such a Society. It has been suggested that the new Society shall be called the "Prince Alfred Hospital Graduates' Union," a most happy name. We congratulate Miss McGahey, who is always a supporter of progress, and of movements which make for the consolidation and benefit of the Nursing Profession, as well as the nurses of Prince Alfred Hospital, upon being the first training school in Australia to establish this bond of union between the school and its graduate nurses and former pupils. The Union can be productive of nothing but good, and there can be no doubt, that, as in the United States, and Canada, and in this country, so in Australia, other hospitals will follow the example now set, to the benefit not only of nurses and nursing schools but also of the public.

IS IT JUST?

THIS is how one of the staff of the *Court Circular* writes of trained nurses in reply to a remonstrance from a member of the nursing profession as to some former remarks:—

"I speak from experience, and I repeat that a great number of trained nurses are hard, cruel, and avaricious, and I again warn those who suddenly find themselves in need of such trained help that they can have a choice in the matter, and are not obliged to engage a woman with an evil face, merely because she has been sent from an agency or home. I know of several instances where the nurse has been a veritable terror to the patient, especially when that patient has been a woman. At the same time, I have the greatest respect for the right sort of nurse, the nurse who not only "when pain and anguish wrings the brow," can be a ministering angel, but who also, through long wearisome illnesses and in contagious diseases proves that

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