

Millar, Ex-Bailie Kirsopp, Revs. H. M. MacGill, and Alex. Scott, Drs. Scott, Robertson, and Horsburgh, besides the most of the leading ladies and gentlemen of the town. The Rev. Mr. Scott presided, and read a letter from the Rev. Mr. Sharp, who was unable to be present, bearing testimony to the valuable services Nurse Murray had rendered to Musselburgh. Mrs. MacGill, who made the presentation, made an appropriate speech in which she referred to the great benefits the town had derived from the labours of the Nurse, and how she had endeared herself to the hearts of the people, and in the name of the people wished her God-speed. Nurse Murray, in appropriate terms, thanked the ladies and gentlemen for the gifts and for all the kindness she had received at the hands of the people of Musselburgh during her stay amongst them. Suitable testimony was also made to Nurse Murray's work by the Provost, Dr. Scott and others, and thereafter the proceedings terminated.

A noteworthy fact has been frequently brought to our notice, namely, that in eastern countries where efforts have been made to train native probationers, the "boys"—who may, by the way, be married men—make much better probationers than the girls. This is so entirely contrary to our experience in this country that it is interesting to search for the cause.

In the first place, the average oriental man is a much gentler creature than John Bull, who, loud of voice, heavy of hand, clumsy in the performance of the finer kinds of manual labour, and dominant in character, has to unlearn much that has been bred in him and his ancestors in many generations of beef-eating and beer drinking, before he is qualified to make even an indifferent nurse. His national characteristics are against his being even passably efficient. Again, an Englishman, though he does one thing well, is helpless when asked to turn his hand to any other occupation. Take him out of his rut, and he is entirely non-plussed.

Now consider the oriental character. The Oriental is gentle, deft-handed, amenable, and sympathetic. His diet of rice, and fruit, has not produced in him a condition suitable for the development of the sterner qualities which enable John Bull, from sheer doggedness, to hold his own against the world. Above all, the Oriental is versatile. The African "boy," for instance, will do dressings in the dispensary, or all the work of a ward, including attendance at operations, in the morning. Having cleared up, and polished the instruments used, to a degree of brightness of which any curator of the surgery

of a London hospital might be proud, he washes his hands, and, dressed in snowy white, appears at tiffin in the capacity of waiter, when silently, skilfully, he moves round the table, changing plates and attending to the manifold, and to him inexplicable, needs of the present-day European. He is no mean cook, and while he himself lives most frugally, all his wants being covered by about three half-pence a day, he can produce, at the shortest notice, and with a minimum amount of utensils, a dinner which would put the average middle-class cook to shame. Indeed, he can, with credit, use his clever fingers in most occupations if necessity arise.

So far the superiority of the Eastern over the Western man as a nurse. But why, if he is so successful, are not his wives and daughters equally so? Although signs are not wanting that the oriental woman may eventually be competent as a nurse, and here and there one is met with who may be considered so even now, there are many causes which combine to keep her back.

FIRST and foremost, no doubt, is the position of women in the East. The men have to some extent come into contact with Western civilization and Western modes of thought. The woman has hitherto, to a large extent, been the exclusive possession of the man, whose right it is to keep her in the background, ignorant and uneducated, at his own beck and call, to work for him, wait upon him, and be beaten by him, if such is his pleasure. It follows that her intellect is undeveloped, her real capacities ungauged. The oriental woman must have another hundred years before her possibilities can be compared with those of the man, and the knowledge of her degradation, and her right to an independent existence, must be infused into her dull mind by her Western sisters when they have slowly and painfully learnt this lesson for themselves.

ANOTHER drawback to the performance of any good work by oriental women is the early age at which they marry. Although the men can continue their nursing work after marriage, this is not often possible in the case of women, and the women nurses are, therefore, recruited from the ranks of girls under fifteen or sixteen, or from widows. Consider what kind of a probationer the average English girl of fifteen or sixteen would make, and you will then be able to make allowances for her Eastern sister if she is not perfection. As in this country, so in the East, the future development of the nurse depends upon the development of the woman.

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