

ALL this *apropos* of the fact that the field is open for the co-operation of all those who are conscientiously convinced that, both for the protection of the public and the good of the nurses, State Registration is necessary, and, moreover, the sympathetic manner in which the press has treated this question in reference to the Matrons' Council Conference, proves conclusively that the public generally have been widely educated on this question during the past decade, thanks to this journal. We are glad to learn, therefore, that the Matrons' Council is going steadily to work for this great reform, and, in the near future, will place the whole circumstances of the case before the medical profession and the public.

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THE following tribute to the late Mrs. Gladstone's work in the cholera epidemic at the London Hospital, as remembered by Mr. Nixon, the late House Governor, who joined the London Hospital as Secretary in 1846, is interesting:—
"Ah, she was a good woman, a brave woman! She faced all the difficulties at a time when people outside seemed to be panic-stricken; not only was there the dread of infection, but the state of the wards was frightful. Everywhere we had sawdust steeped in carbolic scattered about, and underneath every bed there was a large bag of such sawdust. The beds themselves were made of sacks of straw, and such was the nature of the disease that as soon as the patient died, or could be removed, we carried away the bed of straw and the sack of sawdust, and took them to an open space at the back of the hospital, where every other night we had a bonfire. The sufferings of the wretched people were intense, and on every hand one or another would be dying; but Mrs. Gladstone moved freely about among them, saying a kindly word here, giving a flower there, and everywhere showing a sympathy which seemed to the poor people to bring a ray of light into the gloomy wards, and certainly helped them to bear their trials better and more cheerfully."

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We made the acquaintance of Mrs. Gladstone soon after having been appointed Sister of Charlotte Ward at the London Hospital in 1879, as she came occasionally to attend to the business of the Woodford Convalescent Home. We were cutting up bars of yellow soap on the lobby table, when a tall and amiable lady came down the ward, her ample bonnet worn well off her wavy grey hair, her black skirt uplifted in either hand, and showing a liberal peep of elastic-side boot and white cotton stocking!

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"Ah! a new Sister," she said, holding out her

hand, "will you be as good to me as your predecessor, and let me leave my jacket in your room—I will come back for it after Committee?" She then came into the little sitting-room and divested herself of a seal-skin coat, from which the entire satin lining was worn away, exposing to view the purple wadding. The condition of this historic garment was a great shock to us, and required much ingenuity in removal. We were young and foolish in those days, and felt a personal sense of injury that the wife of the Premier of Great Britain should wear white cotton stockings, elastic-side boots, and a coat *sans* satin lining; but twenty years more experience of life has taught us the delight of personal liberty in details and the boredom of convention. Mrs. Gladstone was the most charmingly simple and natural woman in the world, and, doubtless, claimed her right, as the wife of the Premier, to dress as she chose; a concession not granted to more common-place humanity.

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PROFESSOR OSLER, of the Johns Hopkins University, lately delivered an address on "The Importance of Post-Graduate Study," the opening words of which were, "If the license to practise meant the completion of his education, how sad it would be for the doctor, how distressing to his patients! More clearly than any other, the physician should illustrate the truth of Plato's saying, that education is a life-long process." After advocating a continuous thirst after knowledge and ever progressive course of organised study, the Professor concluded his able address thus:—"The most hopeful feature is a restless discontent which, let us hope, may not be allayed until the evolution is complete in every respect. Meanwhile, to students who wish to have the best that the world offers, let me suggest that the lines of intellectual progress are veering strongly to the West, and I predict that, in the twentieth century, the young English physicians will find their keenest inspiration in the land of the setting sun."

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NURSES should take these wise words to heart, and agitate for better facilities for post-graduate study; they sorely need it, and it was the conviction that much that is "best of intellectual progress" is awaiting us away in the West, that prompted the British members of the Nurses' International Council to suggest celebrating the New Century across the Atlantic.

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At the forthcoming annual meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, the following resolution which has been drawn up by the Council, will be proposed:—"It is the unanimous recommendation of the Medico-Psychological

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