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Editorial.

IDEALS.

"Who aimeth at the sky
Hits higher far than he who means a tree."

HOW prosaic, how disappointing, how commonplace is life! How hard it would be if we did not sometimes get glimpses of the ideals with which we began, and which, in spite of the disillusion, and the sobering experiences that come with later years, still gleam beautiful and bright as ever. There is the profession which we entered with so much enthusiasm, counting the hardness of the life as nothing, compared with the honour of belonging to the band of the noblest women the world contains. Well, we have had to revise our ideas amidst some disappointment and bitterness of heart; we find nurses much the same as other human beings, as liable to petty, unworthy failings, as small-minded and as jealous as their neighbours. Yet here and there one arises who revives our hopes, who demonstrates that our dream may become sober reality, that what one has attained to others can achieve, and who keeps alive our faith in the ideal.

Again with regard to work, we set out with high views as to its performance, we come into contact with nurses whose work is perfunctory slipshod, untidy, careless, and showy; so long as things appear right on the surface the unseen details are slurred over or neglected, for it is just these details, which make all the difference between good and bad work, that take up time. The conscientious woman, moreover, often sees her superficial colleague gain credit for smartness and quickness, while her own work is considered slow. Then comes the question. Does this attention to detail matter so much after all? Would it not be better to be quicker and less thorough? When this question presents itself what is the safeguard against degeneration? Let us keep our ideals before us and aim at, if we cannot achieve, the best.

Again, with regard to professional organization we set out with such high hopes. How well we remember the enthusiasm of fourteen years ago. Are we to lower our hopes because unexpected difficulties, unexpected disappointments have arisen? By no means. We will keep before us the ideals with which we started. Sooner or later we shall attain them.

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