

**The American Nursing World.**

**OPENINGS FOR NURSES.\***

By Miss E. R. SCOVIL.

(Continued from page 31.)

**DIETETICS.**

Food is coming more and more into prominence in the treatment of disease. The trained nurse who applies herself to the study of dietetics will find that there is an opening for her in this twentieth century upon which we are about to enter.

She may have charge of the diet kitchen in a hospital where her personal knowledge of the dietary necessary for different forms of diseases would render her invaluable in training the nurses in this branch of the work.

As has been already done in one or two cases, she might open a little shop where suitable and palatable food, broths, Koumiss, gruels, chicken and beef jellies, light puddings, etc., could be obtained for invalids. To this she might add the preparation of sterilized milk and foods for infants, which would be welcome in many nurseries.

Patients suffering from diabetes, Bright's disease, or kindred disorders, or who for any reason were ordered a special diet by their physicians, would often be glad to send to a place where it could be prepared for them without disturbing the economy of their own kitchen or interfering with the convenience of the autocrat who reigns there. Mothers about to take young children on a long journey by land or sea would like to be able to order the thrice sterilized milk, which would keep unspoiled until they reached their destination.

**BUSINESS.**

When nurses graduate from a training school and take up private work they often find difficulty in procuring caps, aprons, neckerchiefs and uniforms suited to their requirements. They have little time for sewing and less time for shopping and the materials they need are not always easy to obtain. A shop for the sale of these things, managed by a nurse, familiar with the requirements of nurses, would be a profitable opening for a nurse who for any reason was unable to do the more active work of her profession. She might add to this the preparation of bandages and surgical dressings, obstetrical pads and napkins, infants' napkins and sanitary squares, sanitary towels, oakum pads for cases where there is incontinence of urine, sheepskin pads for the prevention of bedsores, rings for the support of heels and elbows of bedridden patients, who are without the attendance of a trained nurse, to keep the parts in good condition.

The nurse who engages in one of these business

\* Read before the National Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses, U.S.A., 1900.

enterprises must conduct it in a business-like manner or failure is certain. Some knowledge of bookkeeping is desirable, but whether she possesses this or not the exact balancing of income and outgo is not to be dispensed with. The utmost promptitude in meeting engagements, the exact fulfilment of every contract, fair and just dealing with all who are brought into business relations with her, are indispensable to success.

**THE SPIRIT OF NURSING.**

Is it true that we nurses as a body have lost something of that spirit of self-devotion to the needs of others which was the mainspring of our order in its beginning?

Do we think too much of our rights and too little of our duties?

Is service no longer the motive of our lives?

All about us is suffering humanity; we have been trained, we believe, in the best ways of alleviating that portion of the suffering that comes from disease, or injury to the mortal body that is heir to pain.

Do we consecrate all our powers to this object?

When a nurse says either to herself or to others, "It is not my place to do such and such a thing for my patient," she at once falls below the high standard of our profession.

Whatever in any smallest degree can conduce to the comfort and well being of the sick in her care that, it is not only her "place," but her bounden duty, to do, without thought of self.

The nurse owes to the community the same faithful service that is given to it by the conscientious physician. It is by this earnest devotion to duty that we must raise our calling in the eyes of the world. Better far than any claim that we can make for it will be its own claim to respect when a trained nurse is a synonym for absolute faithfulness and perfect self-forgetfulness.

It is for us older nurses who have borne the burden of the years that have moulded our calling into a profession to hold up this high ideal to the younger women who are entering upon the work.

There is no lack of enthusiasm, as is shown by the response when war called for the services of nurses in the field. Cuba and South Africa have seen something of the same brave spirit that shone on the battle field of the Crimea. In every day life in the training school and the sick room this enthusiasm is latent, it is our part to rouse and guide it aright.

Is there not an opening for nurses in a return to these earlier ideals? In a crucifixion of that mercenary spirit that asks "How much money will this case bring in?" "What will it mean in material advancement?" and substitute for it that of Him who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and who said, "I am among you as he that serveth."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)