

read in turn with novels bound in paper, and saving (getting) money, not for old age, but for present day luxuries, yet these become wrong, and amount to sin, when we place them and our own comfort before the interests of our patients.

The remedy for our defects as a profession is to be found first by each nurse looking to her footing. Then all must be united by the good rope of union and association, so that we can put forward a standard which is an efficient test.

Now, Madam Editor, I would not leave you with the impression that, being a nurse—very much behind the scenes—I consider, as a class, we are a failure. No, a thousand times no. But it is because we are such a nice set of people that we ought to develop—not into a sentimental set, or a hard money-making society, but into a wholesome, strong community, whose strength shall be as the strength of ten because our hearts are pure.

We are in the condition of a child having always lived in our father's house, but with a succession of stepmothers. So at first we were hailed with gratitude and delight as coming to bring relief. Then we were overworked, legitimate pleasures, if not forbidden, were practically denied us from lack of time to take them. Then we were consoled with by conscientious committees, made fools of by a sentimental public, who waxed eloquent in newspapers about the hardships nurses endured. Then arose wise leaders amongst ourselves, who advocated justice and freedom, but just because they rise and stand above their fellows we either throw stones or stand gazing at them. With such causes, is it small wonder the effects are what they are?

And we are spoilt. And those who enter our ranks look about for a standard to aim at. Though some discern the steady lighthouse, *for it is here*, yet the apparatus is of a revolving kind and the true light is only intermittently seen.

The only chance for a spoilt child when arrived at years of discretion, is to take himself in hand. We must do the same, and exercise self-discipline, so that when the next century begins, our work may stand the test awaiting it; then those who come after us may find such commonsense things as State Registration a matter of course and will press forward to greater things. "Show Thy servants Thy work and their children Thy glory" is, I take it, an excellent watchword for 1901.

Wishing you and through you my fellow nurses both here and over the seas a Blessed New Year.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

ELINOR PELL SMITH.

The Home Hospital,
De Montfort Square, Leicester.
January, 1901.

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



Miss Mary Anne Soal, who was chosen to direct the nursing attendants of the late Queen was trained at the Royal Free Hospital, from 1894 to 1898, and holds the certificate of that school, which is awarded after four years training. She also holds the City of London Lying-In-Hospital's certificate for Maternity Nursing,

Miss Soal has been resident nurse on the late Queen's Osborne estate, at the Sanatorium, Osborne, since 1898.

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WE gratefully acknowledge an annual subscription of £1 rs. from Mrs. G. F. McCorquodale, of Berkhamstead, for Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton.

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It is interesting to note the different characteristics which are identified with successive epidemics of influenza. This year the prevalent symptom is stiffness of the neck and pain in the adjacent muscles of the back. Who will isolate the microbe of "flu" and discover its antidote? Happy scientist! He will gain the gratitude of thousands.

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THE Bristol Nurses' Institution and Nursing Home, 23, Richmond Terrace, Clifton, is an institution which is doing excellent work, and we are glad to note that the accounts show a balance in hand of £120, against a deficit of £64 last year. There are forty nurses at work, thirty-one on the private staff, six on the outside staff, and three in the Nursing Home. This Home must be a boon to the public, and we are not surprised to learn that it is always filled, and that cases have to be refused. Patients are received and nursed in single rooms at charges varying from £2 2s. to £4 4s a week, and it is not contemplated that any profit should be made out of it. The Chairman, Dr. Shingleton Smith, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke of the discredit brought on nurses by those who were badly trained and connected with inferior institutions, and also by women who put on a cap and gown, but who had had no training, and his remarks were endorsed by Mr. Nelson Dobson. It is satisfactory to hear disapproval of the dis-

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