

Free from the worry of classes, I think it a most pleasant work, always varying with the myriad individuals, and their myriad interests. I speak from the experience of twelve years spent directly at the bedside.

DOMESTIC WORK.

I am aware that some may raise an objection to the purely technical character of our scheme of preparatory instruction for Nurses; and think we altogether lose sight of the domestic—this we can never escape from; it is this domestic nature of the work which makes it essentially a woman's work, and I would advise everyone who wishes to perfect herself in the art of nursing, to perfect herself first in the art of house-keeping, including cooking. I think it waste of time to come to Hospital to learn these things, and they cannot be done without, they meet a nurse at every turn.

The whole condition of a ward depends on the Nurse in charge (cleanliness is a much more scientific matter than appears at first sight). We do not ask our nurses to do the housemaid's work of the ward, but we do ask for a thorough knowledge of the best methods of cleaning, that they may be able to direct. We have no system for the training of ward-maids, I wish we had, and therefore have to depend upon the Nurse in charge for the general brightness and comfort of all under her; it is similar to an ordinary home, and we all know how much depends upon the head. It is sometimes quite distressing to hear an otherwise capable woman expressing her ignorance of the most common household matters giving as an excuse the depending upon servants.

JOHNS HOPKINS CURRICULUM.

In looking over the Circular of Information kindly sent to me by Miss Nutting, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School for Nurses, I did so, bearing in mind the characteristics of the two Nationalities, and their differing needs.

In comparing the two systems, please do not misunderstand me, and think that I suppose either of the systems, transplanted, would take kindly to the foreign soil, each has sprung out of its own particular need. It is interesting to know what others are doing, and we may be helpful to each other in this way; beyond this we cannot go.

We see that during the first six months of probation, before the pupil enters the wards, instruction is given in Household Economics, Food, Hygiene, Sanitation, Anatomy, Physiology, and Materia-Medica. I must interrupt to say, one cannot but feel envious at the well arranged school, for preparatory work, and wish some generous donor would furnish us with the same facilities for teaching. Well, after this six months come eighteen months spent in practical work in Medical, Surgical, Gynæcological, Infec-

tious, and Orthopædic Wards, not less than eight hours daily, with an hour or two given to class work; this holds good through the two and a half years of ward work. The last twelve months are given to Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Nervous Diseases, and Surgical Technique, as taught in the various operating rooms. We go to the other extreme, giving a ten hours' day to ward work, banishing all classes during the three years spent in the wards, exclusion of class work, while in the wards, being our main object in adopting a plan for the preparatory technical instruction of nurses. In addition to this we confine ourselves strictly to the acquiring of skill in general medical and surgical nursing during the three years, believing this to be the best course for us. I do not think the average woman of our country could cover more ground thoroughly, and as I have previously said, we have the disturbance of the ward work, in regard to the interests of the patients, to consider.

SPECIALISM.

I also think all special subjects should be taken up after a nurse holds her Diploma for general nursing. I should like to see the day when it would be illegal, with us, for any woman to follow specialism—especially Midwifery without her Diploma in general nursing, that is when we arrive at the halcyon days of knowing what that term indicates. So many complications arise in all forms of illness that if a woman takes up any special branch of nursing without a general training, she is likely to find herself in many difficulties.

Any measure of success attending our enterprise is entirely due to the enthusiasm with which all concerned threw themselves into the work, the Medical men who kindly undertook the various classes have been untiring in their efforts to make the two courses as useful as possible, and the coming in daily contact with the pupil through the whole time of residence, viz., the three years, is most helpful in keeping up her interest and seeing that she makes the best possible use of her time.

Our Nurses in charge have almost all passed through the same course of instruction, and are most helpful to me in seeing that the practical nursing is well taught; not only in this, but in my own classes held during the second course, I should be at a sad loss if it were not for the ready help I receive from them.

Last winter each of our Charge Nurses in the medical wards kindly made arrangements for the taking of two or three pupils at certain hours for the giving of practical instruction in the taking of temperature, pulse, respiration, study of excretions, testing, etc.

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