

Nurses are satisfied with the *status quo*, and that in the opinion of the medical faculty and the public, nurses are either saints or devils.

#### PREPARATORY INSTRUCTION FOR NURSES.

To begin at the beginning, when a Probationer upon entering the hospital ward needs teaching the very elements of domestic science and anatomy, you will grant that her education has been somewhat neglected.

A very wearisome Probationer once said to a much-trying Sister:

"Sister, wouldn't you like to smack me?"

"No," replied the Sister, "but I should like to *thump* your Mamma."

Probationers with "Mothers," as apart from "Mammas" usually know a duster from a towel, and a floor-cloth from a linen sheet, and do not use them promiscuously. Moreover they sometimes realise that gas, water, and firing cost money, and that cleanliness is one form of godliness. But the daughters of "Mamma" care for none of these things.

Moreover, "Mamma," often the wife of successive husbands, to whom she presents with equal impartiality the proverbial quiver full of progeny, has apparently a code *toute seule* in reference to what is *nice* in matters anatomical. "Below the waist" is *anathema maranatha*. So the daughters of "Mamma," poor, human suffering things, are taught to shy off from the humanities in right modest style, and are purposely encouraged to confound ignorance with innocence—to their life-long undoing.

Which being interpreted means, that if grown women know nothing of domestic management, anatomy, and physiology, they have no right to handle sick humanity, and failing an all round practical education in their teens, they must be taught these things in the twenties. Hence the demand upon the part of progressive Matrons for Preparatory Instruction for Nurses, and the all-important question of the hour in the nursing world at home and abroad is of what shall the curriculum of Preliminary Education for Nurses consist, and how shall it be carried out. There does not seem a doubt in the minds of thoughtful nurses who have considered the question, that some form of preliminary instruction is imperative. Four important institutions are already experimenting with systems—the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, leading the way, with a three months' course given to extern pupils at their own cost; the London Hospital, London, providing a seven weeks' intern course in a special Home, already costing the hospital £1,500 a year; the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, giving board, lodging, and six months' course of instruction, in return for domestic labour; and the Waltham Training School for Nurses in Massachusetts, founded on quite original lines, as an educational

establishment independent of a hospital, which is in reality a splendidly organised school of Domestic Economy, specially adapted to the needs of nurses of the sick.

In each system there are good and bad points. Compare the four, keep of the best, and eliminate the useless and financially unsound elements, and a first-class system of preliminary education could easily be defined.

Yet when defined, liberal and hearty co-operation amongst the training schools is essential, if it is to succeed.

If each hospital is to continue a law unto itself, and maintain its medical and preliminary nursing schools out of the gifts of the charitable, the fountain of that charity will soon run dry. Such schools will not long continue in these utilitarian days. Medical men and nurses must sooner or later pay for their own education, if that *education is to be worth having*, and in dozens of little ill-equipped schools, it is not possible to provide a first-class curriculum. Central schools—liberally endowed if you will—where the best of teachers may evolve the best of systems, must be the aim of the future. E. G. F.

(To be continued.)

#### The Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses.

The annual meeting of the Governing Body of the above school was held on the 27th ult.—Dr. Ball in the chair. The hon. treasurer presented the accounts, which were passed. The hon. secretary read the annual report, showing that during the year 1901 thirty candidates had been sent for the Preliminary Examination before being accepted for training. Dr. E. MacDowel-Cosgrave delivered eighteen lectures in anatomy, physiology, and hygiene, and three demonstrations in invalid cookery were given by Miss Forrest at the Royal Irish Association, Kildare Street. There were 1,127 attendances at the lectures. The Silver Medal awarded for superior answering was gained by Nurse Naile, of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, and the Bronze Medal was awarded to Nurse M'Cullagh, of the Richmond Hospital.

#### Presentation to Miss Lumsden.

Miss K. M. Lumsden, who is resigning the post of Hon. Superintendent of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Aberdeen, which she has held for sixteen years, has been the recipient of several handsome gifts. The past and present medical staff have presented her with a beautiful old bureau, together with a letter of appreciation from all the members of the staff, the nursing staff have given a handsome drawing-room clock, and the servants of the hospital a silver inkstand.

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