

cases," "children's diseases," "gynæcological" and "obstetrical" work all afford opportunities for the "specialist."

Many young nurses from the smaller hospitals in the United States and Canada, ambitious to enlarge their views and come in contact with the "great in medicine," gravitate towards the larger cities and in time become members of the great army of workers. For such the private hospital and sanatorium afford the needed stepping-stones. These institutions employ only graduate nurses, and pay them a salary of about twenty-five dollars a month, and, of course, living. This seems very small compensation for very hard work, but it supplies the means of present support and brings a nurse in contact with prominent physicians, who in turn become the medium through which she reaches her sick public.

The private nurse enjoys many advantages over other wage-earners. She is protected, and she is almost always brought in contact with refined, intellectual people, and is forced to talk of other things than nursing. We all have a tendency to get into the "professional rut," or, perhaps, it would be truer to say we are very deep in the "professional rut" when we leave the training-school, the world having narrowed down for most of us to the four walls of the hospital, and this coming in contact with other minds who are absorbed in social, religious, political, scientific, and philanthropic subjects stimulates our own intellects, and, of necessity, widens our mental horizon. Of course, we occasionally come in contact with very unlovely people, for the snob and the parvenu are not exempt from bodily ailments. We should take this as a much-needed discipline to reduce us to a proper state of humility, for I think with continuous prosperous and pleasant cases most of us are apt to grow critical and exacting and "refuse to see the sun."

If you are a student of human nature or interested in "class problems," what a glorious opportunity for continuing your researches. You not only see how the other half lives, but you actually live like them.

The experience under doctors of different schools is pleasant and instructive. To our physicians we are simply individual nurses. To outside men we represent our school, and it is judged for or against according to our merits, so that there is a double incentive for well-doing.

The greatest disadvantage is the absence of home life, the never being able to make settled plans. Rooming conditions in this country, which the spasmodic boarding nurses are obliged to indulge in, are, indeed, not pleasant subjects for contemplation. The club will in time fill this most pregnant need. I have been fortunate enough to enjoy the privileges of one for a short time,

and the refined, cultured home atmosphere with which the nurses had succeeded in surrounding themselves was most agreeable and made home-coming a distinct pleasure.

Of its financial advantages I need not speak, as in this day of "combines" and "trusts" they are too apparent to need mention.

The question is often asked, What are the requisites to make the ideal private nurse?

To my mind there can be no fixed standard to which we can appeal, as the vagaries of taste are infinite and often quite inexplicable. Convention, education, accident, and idiosyncrasy all play an important part. I do think it is an absolute necessity to love and believe in your work in order to attain any degree of success in it. And why not believe in it? Surely outside of the home it is the noblest work left to women and requires a many-sided culture. The heights and depths of human nature must be within the range of your vision; you must have a knowledge not learned of books; a wide sympathy; the strength that springs from sympathy and the magnanimity of strength. You must be a doer of deeds preferably, not a speaker of words. You may not attain what the world calls success, but you will attain a truer success. It is not only what we have done, but what we have made of ourselves. If we have repressed our individuality, cultivated much selfishness, criticism, and gossip, and closed our eyes and our hearts to all altruism, then our lives have been failures, and our influence, like all things false, will be suicidal and transitory, less than "the snow upon the desert's dusty face, which, lighting a little hour or two, is gone." To attain the truest success we must soak in the waters of unselfishness, be vitalized from within with a true love for our profession, and realise in ourselves the best we are capable of, and of her "to whom much has been given, much will be required."

### The Midwives Bill.

The Midwives Bill will come on for discussion on the report stage in the House of Commons on Wednesday, June 4th. On this stage it is possible to move amendments which have been rejected in Committee, and also to raise fresh amendments, and already fifteen have been handed in by eight members. In considering the constitution of the Midwives' Board an attempt will once more be made to obtain the appointment of a representative of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the ground presumably that it has amongst its members some 200 midwives. Considering the thousands of midwives with which the Board will deal, we consider this claim on the part of a Nurses' Association unjustified, especially as it is not intended that the R.B.N.A. shall be represented by a nurse.

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