including himself. From generation to generation the art has been handed down. And not only from the few old nurses still in practice, but also from families where little ways of comforting have been inherited much that is precious might yet be garnered for the treasuries of modern training-schools.

Sharp as is the contrast between the old and the new nursing, it must be borne in mind that the new, although really superseding the old, is nevertheless and naturally enough supposed to be merely the successor, and so the rightful heir of all the properties. The old-time nursing, as we have seen, was at best only a trade. How then can we claim that modern nursing is a profession? Those of us who do so claim must give our reasons. And this is the task I have undertaken.

Let us consider what are the essential characteristics that distinguish a profession from a trade.

Galen is rightly called the Father of the profession of medicine. Why? Not because he added much to the stock of medical knowledge. No, but because he formulated his famous oath requiring of his disciples that each in turn should impart to his successors all the knowledge he might acquire. This obligation, after long centuries of observance, is still the most important standard of the medical profession.

When, nearly fifty years ago, Theodore Fliedner, who is rightly called the Father of modern nursing, visited the little Bethesda Hospital in Hamburg he found there beautiful nursing. Some years before Elise Aberclieck had taken into her tiny home her friend's husband, who, having been given up to die in the great city hospital, had been laid on a bed of straw in the damp gas-lit cellar. The poor fellow begged to be carried up into the sunshine, and the two brave women in their distress secured his removal and the care of a kindly surgeon. Almost miraculously the man recovered; but while he was yet sick the surgeon persuaded the women to receive a second patient, and then a third. Before they knew it they had a small hospital on their hands, which soon became famous and rapidly outgrew its successive enlargements. It is amusing to look at their consternation when first asked to admit a female patient. Up went their hands in horror! They knew how to care for men, but as for women patients, how could they undertake it?

At the time of Fliedner's visit Elise Aberdieck and her friend were rightly proud of the institution, and they confidently expected Fliedner's approval. But after careful inspection of their work he blazed out in righteous wrath. For a time they could not understand him. He declared their work to be useless, and that it might better never have been undertaken. At last through their tears they saw his meaning: they were not teaching other women to be their successors; they were not professional. But they became so. They took in probationers. And the school they then started is the finest school for nurses I have ever seen on either side the ocean.

When Florence Nightingale, with the thank-offering given by the women of England for her glorious service in the hospital at Scutari, founded the school for nurses at St. Thomas's where women should be taught what she herself had learned at Kaiserswerth, she established the new profession of nursing among English-speaking people. That was ten years before the profession was established here. But since then progress in this country has been marvellously rapid, for which our gratitude is especially due to Dr. Cowles, who not only inaugurated the great school at the Boston City Hospital, one of the first in this country both in age and in fame, but soon afterwards he also established the now world-wide system of training nurses for the care of the insane.

Is it not plain that modern nursing stands this foremost professional test of providing for the instruction of all who wish to learn to be nurses? Indeed, in what other profession is there such liberal provision made for students? In recognition of the invaluable assistance given by the sister profession, the busiest physicians and surgeons give unsparingly every possible aid in the instruction of student nurses. It is true they look forward with hopeful anticipation to the time when they shall be relieved of much of this work by nurses who, having mastered both the science and the art of nursing, shall undertake all the teaching of their successors.

This thought leads me to point out that one of the obstacles to the recognition of nursing as a profession is this temporary dependence upon the medical profession for teaching in schools for nurses. But already it is plain that only the comparatively unimportant science can be taught by physicians, and that the art of nursing can be taught only by nurses. And now that highly educated women are entering the profession, we shall surely soon have nurses who are at least equally able to teach the science upon which the art of nursing depends.

So much for the teaching test.

Another and closely allied characteristic of a true profession is the sharing with all associates every professional advantage. The lawyer, the clergyman, and the physician delight in giving brotherly help to their fellows. They have associations and meetings for sharing their discoveries and for regulating their professions.

Can modern nurses stand this professional test? I wish I could answer more positively in the affirmative. There are many hopeful signs.

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