

Associations of nurses are forming, nursing journals are at last under the control of nurses, books upon nursing by nurses are increasing, more interest is being shown by nurses in the regulation of their profession. But it must be admitted that progress in this direction has been provokingly slow. The modern nurses too often have followed their predecessors in unprofessional ways. They have not helped each other; they have not given cordial support to the nursing associations and journals that are struggling to advance the profession. They have even allowed themselves to be sent out to service by registries controlled not by nurses and conducted not for the nurses' interests, but for the pecuniary gain of others. In these registries were filed away criticisms of the nurses, perhaps containing reflections upon their characters, which the nurses themselves might never see but which nevertheless determined their careers. So long as nurses meekly submit to such servant intelligence-office treatment it will be difficult to maintain that they appreciate their professional privileges and obligations. However, in all those ways wherein modern nurses have failed to assume full professional responsibilities there is improvement already visible; and, after all, it must not be forgotten that there has as yet been very little time for the metamorphosis of nursing. We who belong to a profession centuries old may well be slow to criticise a profession that has not yet outlived its founders.

Another striking difference between trades and professions is that journeymen believe and maintain that they know all that is to be known in their respective trades, while no member of a profession can possibly beguile himself into imagining that he knows anything like as much about his profession as he ought to know.

How is it with nurses? As they are sent forth from their training-schools are they satisfied with their education? Or do they realise that their education is only just begun, and that throughout their lives they must be learning? And do modern nurses as they go on in their life-work realise more and more that what they know, in comparison with what they ought to know, is as nothing?

Of course, in applying these tests we must, in fairness, consider the best nurses. Indeed, I doubt if the members of any profession would care to have their profession otherwise judged. The average always seems low.

Some years ago, when studying training-school methods in England, in my eagerness for advice from Miss Nightingale I wrote, begging for an interview. She replied that she was a helpless invalid, that she had to deny herself the pleasure of seeing even her life-long friends, but she added, "If you should still wish to see me to give or to receive information on any point [regarding nursing] I would gladly make time to see you."

Could there be found any higher proof than that of true professional zeal and humility? Nor is such proof to be found only in exceptional instances. I doubt not that many present will agree with my own experience that this truly professional spirit now generally characterises the leading nurses in this country.

(To be continued.)

## General Culture in the Education of the Nurse.\*

By MISS MARY E. HIBBARD,

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Among the various occupations followed by women of the present day there is not one that appeals to the woman's instincts or her usefulness more than that of nursing. It is essentially a woman's work in every country. It demands possibly less heroic strength than patient attention to detail and an ability to preserve a high moral, mental, and physical standard throughout her career, aside from the important point of practising her profession with credit to herself and her school.

Three classes of qualifications are conceded pre-eminently to be desired in the nurse of to-day—namely: First, general culture; second, practical knowledge; third, theoretical knowledge. The first qualification is the subject of my paper, and the purpose of this article is to bring before you briefly what is required and developed in the nurse apart from the practical and theoretical knowledge she acquires in her training.

Morbid conditions of mind and body require to be treated by the mentally true and physically perfect. The mind and body which the nurse deals with in her work are inseparable. He who treats with one affects the other.

Nursing is an art, not essentially a profession; a work, not merely a calling; a science ancillary to the medical profession.

When the important duty is assigned us to educate and fit others for this work a responsibility is laid upon us serious in its obligations and its results.

It is imperative that each individual under our instruction and supervision not only should live up to the rules and examples set before her, but she is expected to develop on individual lines such characteristics as will mark her for success in her career, also to assume a courage strong enough to overcome the difficulties that will present themselves in the performance of duty, and which should never be allowed to become an obstacle in the effort to

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