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OUR ALBUM.



MISS VEVA KARSLAND.

EDITORIAL.

THE TRAINING OF PRIVATE NURSES.

OUR consideration of the subject of Private Nursing last week has brought us to the question of the general and special training which is necessary in order to enable the workers in this department to discharge with the utmost efficiency the multifarious duties now imposed upon them. For it will doubtless be admitted that the education requisite to make a thoroughly good Private Nurse involves something far above and beyond a term of Hospital training. We are not in this referring to those great moral qualities—patience, gentleness, tact, sympathy—such are born in some, but only with the greatest difficulty developed in others; but rather to some technical knowledge, which only needs diligence and opportunity to be readily acquired by all. It is a matter of common knowledge and frequent observation that the best Trained Hospital Nurses, often find themselves strangely awkward when first commencing private work. There is so much in every way radically different between their past occupation and their present. Hitherto they have had to conform to rigid discipline, which, good and necessary as it was, almost crushed out all sense of individuality; to be subject to control and supervision at every point, which, however wise and beneficial, nearly obliterated any feeling of personal responsibility. Then the patients, cognisant of the fact that they were receiving charitable aid, were easily dictated to, while as servants of a public institution the Nurses were independent of their criticism or their praise. But to the Private Nurse all and each of these conditions are changed.

The oversight and the discipline are conspicuous by their absence, but then the ready obedience of the patient is gone too. And, on the other hand, unless she can assert her individuality, she can never expect to possess the slightest control over

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