

Association. The above quotation from the rules indicates certain groups of cases in which the services of Male Nurses may be sought with advantage. They may also be usefully employed to attend on gentlemen resident in chambers when sick, and to travel with invalids of their own sex, and we understand that on many occasions Male Nurses have been supplied from the offices of the Association for these purposes. Masseurs are also provided to attend at the residences of gentlemen at a uniform charge of five shillings per hour (and travelling expenses)—a tariff which compares favourably with the fees charged by many professional rubbers. As evidence of the fact that the Male Nurses supplied by the Association have met with appreciation it may be mentioned that, not only private patients, but some of the London Hospitals employ them. We find from the last annual report that men are supplied for temporary duty in the Wards to the following Metropolitan Hospitals:—St. George's, Guy's, Westminster, National Hospital for the Paralyse and Epileptic. Also that one of the Association Nurses is still retained at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, for duty in the out-patient department. Nor does this complete the account of the work done by the Association, for it has supplied Male Nurses gratuitously to the sick poor—the Nurses detailed for the purposes visiting the patients at their own homes in the same manner as female "District Nurses" visit. A special fund has been formed for this branch of the work, which is evidently capable of being largely extended, if contributions are received in adequate amount. Much has been said of late years about pensions for Nurses, and the "National Pension Fund for Nurses," though founded with great *éclat*, has not escaped some severe criticisms. It may be noted, therefore, that the Hamilton Association propose to establish their own pension fund for Nurses on their roll, and also a fund for the assistance of Nurses when sick. Special donations for these objects are sought. That the Association is deserving of support may be readily judged from the fact that in its list of patrons may be found the following well-known names:—Sir Andrew Clark, Bart. (President of the Royal College of Physicians), Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq. (President of the Royal College of Surgeons), Sir Joseph Fayrer, Sir Prescott Hewett, Bart., Sir Edward Sieveking, Dr. Quain, Archdeacon Farrar, the Bishop of Ripon, Sir Thomas Crawford (late Director-General, A.M.D.), and Sir John Reid (late Director-General Naval Medical Department).

The offices of the Association are at 57, Park Street, Grosvenor Square, W.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE HAIRDRESSER.

In the days of the eighteenth century, when the ladies wore small towers of powdered hair on their unhappy heads, by way of being thought beautiful, towers which it was a regular work of art to erect, the master hairdresser was a well-known character, a famous man, a welcomed arrival, bringing with him, as he ever did, little tit-bits of gossip wherewith to beguile the weary hour, using his tongue as ably as his quick fingers. Little dreamt he—the very thought would have made him shudder—that in the very next century his domain would be invaded by "the fair sex," a sex that has become much more energetic since *les grandes dames* sat so patiently and meekly before him, and which threatens some day to drive the "lords and masters" altogether from the field of labour. Yet when one seriously considers it, surely a woman's province peculiarly is this "natty" art, with its need of skilful, slender fingers and extreme patience and nicety of touch. It is now about fifteen years since Mr. Douglas first started "lady hairdressers," his great success in his new venture leading others soon to imitate him. His large establishment in Bond Street is always well patronised. One side of the long ladies' saloon upstairs is divided into partitions. In the centre is a stove which does double duty—*i.e.*, heating the room and also the curling and crimping irons. Pleasant and bright the young ladies who in their simple black gowns and pretty white aprons come forward to know your pleasure, and whether you want your hair cut, shampooed, or crimped. They are always civil and obliging. The work, I was informed, is pleasant and of great variety. Certainly it gives room for the study of human nature and human hair. The usual hours are from 9.30 to 6.30, but in summer (when they are far busier than at any other time of the year) extra hours are more the rule than the exception. The work is not always confined to the shop, for a great many ladies prefer to pay the extra charge and have an assistant sent to their own houses. The weekly salary is usually from thirty shillings to thirty-five shillings. Both Messrs. Truefitt and Co. and Mr. Douglas take apprentices. It takes from about three to nine months to learn the business, according to the ability of the learner, for there is the gift of hairdressing to be included in the presents with which Mother Nature can endow us poor mortals, an she will; and without a decided taste for it, I should advise no one to attempt to become a lady hairdresser. There is no fear of vegetating in this profession, for there is always something new to be learnt, for the "modes" of wearing the hair

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