

tunities, from time to time, of lending a helping hand in time of need, which would, undoubtedly, if volunteered modestly and gracefully, as a rule be appreciated, especially by the solitary and oftentimes overworked Nurse resident in our villages and country districts. And if, at this point, she should have made the happy discovery that nursing is her forte and vocation in life, and is fully satisfied that she has caught *esprit de corps*, then let her try that time-honoured and invaluable Nurse-finishing academy of ours—the Hospital. But if still in doubt, let her go her way and try something else.

And if, Sir, I may be pardoned for trespassing so much on your space, I should like further to add that, at the close of many years of keen observation, hard study and nursing in Hospitals, private families, and in the homes of the poor, I have arrived at the conclusion that the last-named phase of it has scarcely yet outgrown its infancy; and to this fact alone I would unhesitatingly attribute (rightly or wrongly) most of the failures and breakdowns, so called. Failures and breakdowns, forsooth! I have no such words in my vocabulary. No, no; for are not these, all of them, beautifully got up reports, advance copies, of the honourable and invaluable work already accomplished by that large and noble army of pioneers of ours? I think so, and should we allow ourselves to forget the allegiance we individually owe to those worthy old veterans? Most certainly not! I would urge, rather, upon each of my comrades in warfare the vital importance of a sound and delicate appreciation of their duty in this matter, and would ask them to rally to the bugle sound.

District Nursing should, in my feeble judgment, ultimately develop into a very fine art. But for all great work in life, work whereby we may benefit our fellows, we need careful preparation and training. I fail, however, to see the wisdom of the controversy now current in nursing circles everywhere—viz., whether the District Nurse of the future should be drawn from the so-called "Lady Nurse" or "upper servant" class. Do not greatness and humility go together? However this may be, in my allegiance to truth I would emphatically assert that character should always rise superior to circumstances. And as a wise man has said, "Only one thing about us is eternal—that is *character*; and only the influences which mould that character are of final importance." All that develops kindness towards our fellow creatures, pureness of moral vision, straightforwardness of action, is to me an eternal reality, because it is helping to build up my character; and character is the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

In conclusion, comrades, let us go and do something with our lives, by precept or example, or by both if we can; stimulate and rouse into action better motives and higher aspirations in the minds of our fellows, and the effort will carry its own reward.

Mr. Platt says, "I have read, 'He who reads, rules.'" It is only half a truth; it is he who *thinks* out what he reads that rules. We want broader views of God and of ourselves; above all we want a belief that we may worship God by reverential obedience to His will, and for our reason to be trained to see that we may best secure all the Creator's goodness to us in this world by acting in such a way as will best fit us for the world to come. It only wants a real desire implanted in men's minds, that they may earnestly strive to act out the spirit of Longfellow's noble lines:—

"Standing in what too long we bore,
With shoulders bent and downcast eyes,
We may discern, unseen before,
A path to higher destinies.
Nor deem the irrevocable past
As wholly wasted, wholly vain,
If, rising on its wrecks, at last
To something nobler we attain."

Thanking you very warmly for the recent Editorials on District Nursing and for all the kind interest and pains you are taking to promote the advancement of nursing generally.—I remain, Sir, faithfully yours,

SARAH CLAYTON, M.B.N.A.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Can you give me the address of the *Hospital Gazette*? If so, state what is its published price, and how often it is issued.—Yours, &c., M.B.N.A.
[Messrs. Balliere, Tindall and Cox, King William Street, Strand, W.C., are the publishers. It is issued every Saturday, price twopence.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am grateful to tell you that I have received two shillings and sixpence from Nurse Winter, Saffron Waldon Hospital; also one shilling from Nurse Leidler, Chiswick, for the "Distressing Case," and the Nurse would be glad if you would say how grateful she is to them for their kindness. I wrote to each at once, but the Nurse's thanks through you is more satisfactory, for, as she says, it is through the *Record* it came.—Yours gratefully,
HELEN DUNN, M.B.N.A.
Beech House, London Road, Red Hill.

THE "PENNY DON QUIXOTE."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Permit me to thank you very warmly on my own account, and also in the best interests of the nursing profession, for your able and much-called-for annotation on the weekly *Penny Don Quixote*. Personally, having from time to time heard many arguments both for and against this periodical, I finally decided to take it in for six months, to see and judge for myself. Suffice it, I never catch a glimpse of this paper now without being strongly reminded of these words, "Evil communications corrupt good manners."—I am, Sir, faithfully yours,
MINERVA.

THE PROPOSED COLLECTION FOR ORPHANAGES.—MEMORIAL TO THE LORD MAYOR.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—A numerous signed memorial has just been presented to the Lord Mayor, asking his support for a fund in aid of the Metropolitan Orphan Asylums, which it is proposed to establish on the same principle as the Hospital Sunday Fund. This should open out the whole question of Orphanages—how they are managed, what class of orphans they benefit, to what extent they improperly relieve the poor law authorities of their responsibility, their methods of election or admission, and the question as to whether orphanages could not be to a great extent abolished, and the boarding out system in respectable families substituted in their place a view to preserve family ties. It is to be hoped that his Lordship identifies himself with the proposed subject will be thoroughly thrashed out, so that it decided once for all what claim most of the existing orphanages have to public sympathy and support. One decision which the Lord Mayor could hardly fail to arrive at is that, following the example of the Hospital Sunday Fund in declining to support the Surgical Aid Societies requiring a multiplicity of subscribers' letters, no official recognition or assistance could be given to any of the voting orphanages. As the secretary of this Institution, I cannot help bringing this subject prominently before your readers, and trust that no increased public support will be given to any Institution which is disfigured by the cruel system of voting now in vogue unfortunately with nearly every one of the Metropolitan Orphanages, Mr. Spurgeon's Stockwell Orphanage and the Brixton Orphanage being two commendable exceptions. I need not enlarge on the other objections which might possibly be raised to existing societies, but it is worthy of observation that many of them compete with the Poor Law, and thereby not only waste their funds, but exclude cases which have a direct claim on charity; in fact, the whole system requires remodelling and placing on a sound charitable basis.—Your obedient servant,
J. A. DOW,
Secretary Charity Voting Reform Association.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)