

officers of the Association or Medical Superintendents and Chaplains. If the members are to be effective and the Association strong, not only numerically but actually, surely they must take an active part in its debates. Asylum workers, like all workers, are busy folk; yet, even so, more than a few dozen could find time to be present at the annual meeting of their professional Association. If not, then their nominal strength is likely to prove a source of danger.

The danger of treatment, even apparently harmless treatment, by unskilled persons was recently exemplified in the case of Mrs. Elizabeth Wynne, an aged East Ham widow, who had been paralysed in the legs for eleven years. A lady herbalist, it is said, advised that some bricks should be made hot, wrapped in flannel soaked in vinegar, and applied to the affected parts. This was done; but the old lady's skin was burned, and she died. At the inquest on Saturday (which was adjourned) death was attributed to septic blood-poisoning. Anyone possessed of an elementary knowledge of the special dangers in relation to cases of paralysis would be aware that sensation being lost, and the skin in an ill-nourished condition, the greatest care must be taken in the application of heat.

We are apt to think that it is the province of the ungifted to drudge, and that genius is exempt, or, at any rate, should be relieved, from common-place, everyday work. Yet what is genius but an "infinite capacity for taking pains," and painstaking work includes attention to minutiae; it is this, indeed, which distinguishes the careful from the careless worker. Of all examples of genius within the last hundred years there stands out conspicuous that of Lord Nelson. We can never pass through the heart of this great metropolis without seeing him, column high, as the man whose genius the country delights to honour. Every child knows of his intrepid daring, his consummate skill; how many of us realise that the "bed-rock" on which the dazzling superstructure was raised was sheer drudgery? Yet evidence of this is to hand with the news that the *Victory's* life of duty is at length ended, and that this famous flagship, which bore Nelson at Trafalgar, has hauled down her flag for the last time.

During the blockade of Toulon, Nelson's temper was tried to the uttermost by the French Admiral's aversion to open battle. Yet it is recorded of him that he grew to call the station of Toulon his home; "certainly he watched the port with a perseverance that has never been surpassed. From May, 1803, to August, 1805, he set foot outside the *Victory* but three times, and each time it was on the King's business, and on no occasion did his absence exceed an hour."

It is an example which may well put to shame those of us who have fallen on easier times, when nurses are apt to think themselves hardly treated if they do not have four hours off duty daily, and every indulgence that a thoughtful committee can provide for them. It is right and just that in ordinary times this should be so. But it is scarcely the best preparation for the long hours of private nursing, for the complete devotion of pioneer work. Let us beware lest with greater luxury we lose touch of the stern Spartan spirit which, in the early days of nursing reform, kept the women whose names we nurses must always reverence at the post of duty with unflinching courage.

The five district nurses of the Middlesbrough Nursing Association last year dealt with 738 cases and paid 18,443 visits. Through the medium of the Samaritan Fund, 866 gallons of soup and beef-tea were distributed, and 857 dinners to convalescent patients, besides milk, fresh eggs, cod-liver oil, coal, and clothing. Under the superintendence of Miss Purvis, the Association is doing excellent work, and it is regrettable that the financial support accorded it falls short of the requisite amount. The Committee say in the annual report: "The daily visit of the nurse brings hope, comfort, and relief, and to those who are interested in this work the comparative indifference of the public causes surprise and regret."

The Coloured Home and Hospital, New York City, has altered its name to the Lincoln Hospital and Home, but this does not imply any change in its attitude to the coloured race, only that it has broadened the scope of its work by opening its doors to patients regardless of race, colour, or creed, and so as it no longer received the coloured exclusively, it seemed inappropriate that this should be implied in the name of the institution, hence the change.

But a visit to the wards for aged and chronic invalids shows the coloured folk still conspicuous amongst the patients. "Turbaned mammies and grey-headed uncles, each with something lovable, and some story to tell of old days and joys, present comforts, or future hopes—for to no people is heaven more sweet—sit in little groups near the sunny windows, tend the soil of growing plants, turn the pages of picture magazines, or smoke the old-fashioned clay pipe of contentment and peace."

A comprehensive course of training has been organised for the coloured pupils of the nurse-training school under Miss Harriet D. Morgan, Superintendent, and the graduates have organised an Alumnae Association, and have applied for membership to the New York State Alumnae Association, thus proving themselves alive to their professional obligations.

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