

to cheer Miss Wilkinson on her way to a new set of duties in a new sphere of work. She had been with them nearly six years, and those who had known her longest would feel parting with her most, for the longer one knew her the more one recognised her sterling good qualities. He had been officially associated with nine Matrons in this and other hospitals, and he could sincerely and honestly say that he had never known a better Matron than Miss Wilkinson. She was leaving the institution with the love and respect of every woman in the establishment. Anyone who after six years' control of a large female staff left with the admiration and love of them all must have done her work exceedingly well. Miss Wilkinson was proceeding to a splendid sphere of work; the management of a large military hospital needed great ability, great tact, and great strength of character.

Mr. Carnt, the Secretary-Superintendent, in referring to the admiration and esteem in which Miss Wilkinson was held by all connected with the institution, referred to the reorganisation of the nursing staff which she had carried out. The period of training had been increased from two to three years, and the nursing arrangements placed on a thoroughly satisfactory basis. The Weekly Board and all who had been associated with her in the management of the institution were exceedingly sorry she was leaving them, but they had the satisfaction of knowing that, having greatly improved the organisation of the infirmary, she was leaving to undertake a greater and more difficult work, which called for the appointment of the very best Matrons who could be obtained. He felt sure it would be a satisfaction to her to know that she carried with her to her new sphere of labour the good wishes of everyone connected with the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, and on their behalf he wished her every success in the work she was undertaking, and again expressed great regret that she was leaving.

Mr. Wethered, the house surgeon, on behalf of the resident medical officers, said that they had not had the pleasure of knowing Miss Wilkinson for a lengthened period, but during the few months they had known her professionally and socially they could only speak of her in terms of the highest admiration. He hoped she would receive the mementoes which would be presented to her as a token of their regard, and on behalf of the resident medical officers wished her every success in her new life.

Drs. Vaudrey and Bryan then presented a brooch and bracelet on behalf of the nursing staff, and some beautiful silver from the resident staff and other friends, and in so doing Dr. Vaudrey wished her God-speed and every success in her new appointment, and hoped she would carry away the mementoes as a token of their respect and admiration. Miss Wilkinson returned thanks in suitable terms, and expressed her sorrow at leaving Derby.

## The Place of Colour in Nursing.

A short time since I wrote on the subjective side of the axiom that the commonest things of daily life may be made beautiful. The objective side of this is equally important. In these days the scientific aspect of nursing receives an increasing amount of attention, but not enough is given to its artistic side. The cultivation of the latter is essential to the best nursing. It is, of course, chiefly in private nursing that the nurse who has fully grasped the fact that nursing is an art as well as a science finds scope for her artistic faculties. I often think it would be well for the sick public and its nurses if they could hear Mr. Mortimer Menpes preach a sermon on his "gospel of colour," and themselves apply its lesson to the sick-rooms with which they are concerned. The public, on the whole, seem to have a fixed idea that illness is a dull, miserable thing which occasionally has somehow to be endured; and, beyond the conventional use of flowers, too often one finds all the surroundings of the sick in keeping with this idea. I have seen many sick-rooms from which every pretty article of furniture had been banished "for fear they should be spoilt," and the general impression made by the rooms was drab and dreary in the extreme. In such an environment, convalescence is bound to be retarded more or less, and, though the Spartan resolve to endure it, which one sometimes meets, may, from one point of view, be meritorious, it is by no means necessary, and is not at all conducive to the recovery which is usually longed for.

There are many types of illness, known to all nurses, where the patient, though still kept in bed or on a couch for several weeks, may be well enough to respond readily to the efforts of the nurse to make life in one room full of colour, and therefore bright and happy. Of the first importance is the appearance the nurse herself presents. Undoubtedly, in choosing indoor uniform due consideration should be given to the probable effect this may have on patients. I have often seen worn dresses of a black and white check or a nondescript stripe, chosen, I was told, with a view to economy. Such prints look neat, if severe, but, personally, I should find their proximity actually depressing, were I the patient. A nurse whom I once met wore as a cap a small lace-edged doyley folded cornerwise, and pinned flat to her hair. She explained to me that she found this less trouble and cheaper than wearing a proper cap. The effect, however, was far from prepossessing. Some nurses instinctively garb themselves with results that are always pleasing; but some are not gifted with artistic feeling, and have never made the necessary study of the quality. To achieve the maximum result of her labour and skill every nurse should have an artistic as well as a scientific value, and should always be pleasant to behold. Where at all possible,

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