

members, or imperfect in his mind. A surgeon should have three special qualities—"the heart of a lion, the eyes of a hawk, and the hands of a woman." Besides all this sound scientific teaching, Dr. Hall wrote moral poetry, translations of Proverbs, Psalms, and other passages of Scripture, and a wonderful "Poesie in the Forme of a vision, briefly inveying against the most hateful and prodigious art of Necromancy, Witchcraft, Sorcerie, incantations, and divers other detestable and devilish practises, daily used under colour of judicial astrology," 1563. But the volume most interesting to women is his longest poem, "The Court of Virtue," written to counteract the influence of a book then popular, now altogether out of existence in its original form, the "Court of Venus," which contrast I worked out in the *Athenæum* some years ago. He describes the Muses of the Christian poet as Temperance, Constancy, Chastity, rather than the Greek list. He supposes that he had a vision of the Lady Virtue, the Queen of these Moral Muses, and she explained to the author how he might help her by writing hymns and songs fit for good men to sing. Some of these are set to music. One of his ditties was "made at the time of the sweating sickness in 1552." He has a song "against the sinful time when all things are out of order," a theory "on the origin of fashions" at p. 132, and what he calls "a Sonnet" on p. 168, which is a long poem "against the abuses and pride that reigneth among vain women," as—dyeing their hair, painting their faces, dressing themselves too gorgeously, wearing high-heeled shoes, &c.

"And some to be small so straineth their lace,
That they clean deprive from colour their face,
The right course of blood so stopping withal,
That often they faint and to the ground fall."

"Yet though their small waist oft maketh them swoon," they pad their hips round and wear great hoops, which make them seem like dancing giants in the street. Besides tight-lacing, he disapproves of women following so eagerly the ever-changing fashions of the day, and advises them to learn the laws of "The Court of Virtue." Good advice and sound, though couched in quaint language. After 350 years have passed, some of the women of England might take it to heart still; as many of the youths of England might take to heart his advice regarding the study of surgery.

At an ordinary meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Mr. J. Ward Cousins read a statement reporting the work of the Central Midwives' Board for the past year. An unforeseen difficulty had arisen between the Irish Training Institutions and the Central Midwives' Board respecting the certificates which must be produced before a candidate could be admitted to the Board's examination. The majority of the Board had declined to consider any alteration of the existing rules, and, therefore, it was probable the matter would be referred to the Privy Council.

Our Foreign Letters.

GERMAN NURSES ORGANISE.

Fraulein Karll, writing from Berlin, willingly accepts the invitation of the Organising Committee of



the International Council of Nurses to present a paper defining a curriculum of education, and a minimum standard qualifying for registration as a

trained nurse, and says:—

"It is my duty, as a leader of the movement for liberty amongst the German nurses, to occupy myself with the education question. I, therefore, dare not decline your request. . . . Since receiving Miss Dock's letters, the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, and the report of the International Council of Nurses at Buffalo, I feel especially ashamed at our terribly backward condition in Germany in regard to the development of sick nursing—we who once, through Kaiserswerth, were able to give help and inspiration to others.

"The peculiar religious and political conditions which are caused by the geographical position of Germany explain and excuse much to those who accurately understand these conditions. To an outsider they do not appear so outrageous as they are in reality, at least I gather this impression from Miss Dock's report, which shows excellent observation for a foreigner, who can only receive superficial impressions. I find much comfort in the knowledge that, in the great world without, our colleagues understand and take an interest in our difficulties, and sympathetically follow our efforts.

"The letters from Miss Dock came at a time of great discouragement, and helped me to take heart again for the winter's work. Your letter also comforted me in a condition of complete prostration. . . . We German nurses have to create a new world out of nothing.

"No good regular training; hundreds of Sisters broken down through unheard-of over-exertion after only a few years' work, their future quite unprotected and unprovided for; enmity or indifference wherever one turns; even from the Women's Movement very little understanding, as our professional life was at first almost a monastic one, secluded from public observation. The Red Cross movement forced us to act; it could not be passed by. I had been trying for years to find women to voice our needs, then male doctors who would come forward on our behalf. All in vain. Personally, I felt unfit for the work, and after thirteen years' experience had been obliged to give up active nursing and find some more remunerative work. For that reason I was one of the few German nurses who were free and independent enough to act. How necessary that was, the result has speedily shown. We have now 230 Sisters and nearly 100 honorary members who help us with contributions. Our real pioneers are very few, and all of them are much tied by their work. Can you, dear Madam, give me permission to translate for our nursing journal some of the papers

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