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**Editorial.**

**A GOOD ALL-ROUND NURSE.**

To be a "good all-round nurse" is the aspiration of many a probationer on entering a hospital for training, but the fulfilment of this desire is by no means easy to her, nor is it always realised what the aspiration involves. Certainly it entails an adequate knowledge of the practical methods of medical, surgical and gynæcological nursing, and of as many special branches—such as the nursing of obstetric, infectious, ophthalmic, and aural cases—as possible.

But the nurse who attains thus far is by no means fully equipped. Her daily work brings her in contact, not with abstruse subjects of academic importance, but with humanity in every conceivable phase, humanity palpitating with the whole gamut of emotions, dreading its weird in a variety of situations, from a tenement house to a Royal Palace; in civilised regions, and far removed from them; in polar and in tropical environments. In all she must show herself strong to overcome circumstances rather than to be overcome by them; resourceful in danger, a ready recipient of the troubles of others, inspiring confidence, and diffusing an atmosphere of peace, unexacting as regards personal requirements and personal enjoyment, but jealous at all times for the honour of her calling. All this a nurse should be; manifestly she can only hope to attain her ideal by a sympathetic study of the social problems of the day, by availing herself of every opportunity to become acquainted with humanity in all its phases, so that she may be quick to recognise the germ of good wherever it exists, to seize upon and endeavour to develop it; she must also cultivate a large-hearted tolerance of views at variance from her own, so that her personality may not be antagonistic to any of those with whom she comes in contact.

This much achieved, the nurse must set her-

self to consider other aspects of her life, for at present she is one-sided, having concerned herself only with her duty to her patients. We cannot be members of a profession, or receive the benefits which it confers, without having corresponding obligations. The condition of efficiency which we find in the training-schools to-day has been won for us by our predecessors as the result of hard work and self-sacrifice. As with living organisms, so with professional standards, they must either be developing or retrograding. Our plain duty, then, is to maintain and perfect these standards, to offer any special knowledge we have acquired for the information of our colleagues through our professional journals, at public congresses, or in private conference; regarding nothing we have learnt as our own, but as a possession to be utilised for the common good. The generosity or otherwise with which we fulfil such obligations stamps our ideals, for the essence of the commercial spirit is to preserve to one's own use valuable knowledge; the essence of the professional spirit, on the other hand, is to share it with others.

Yet again, the nurse must bear in mind that to be "good all round" entails the performance of public obligations, a duty from which she often shrinks, for the duties of citizenship are frequently associated with efforts for reform. Reform is bound to be prejudicial to someone's interests, and, in consequence, those who promote it are liable to arouse antagonism and criticism. The old axiom ever holds good, that "so long as thou doest well unto thyself all men will speak well of thee." The contrary is often as true in relation to the unselfish worker for the good of the community.

Nevertheless, the servant of the public has the reward for which she cares in the maintenance of her self-respect, in the approval of conscience, and, at times—a reward of rare sweetness—the achievement of the reforms to which she has set her hand.

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