

hospital revolution has been, one need only look at Italy, where the physicians are most scientific, yet quite satisfied with unscientific nursing; at Austria, where the very lowest dead level is found in nursing affairs, and where the most scientific men are satisfied with the most stupid and spiritless attendants; at the nursing reform in England, which was the work of Miss Nightingale; and at the movement for trained nursing in America, which was entirely a reform pushed through by women, with an occasional man here and there to help. (The reason that all our first schools had committees of women entirely was, that men were indifferent or opposed to training-schools. Now, since they are a success, they are quite ready to manage them.) And so I want to say, "All honour to these men of France who have spontaneously tried to create an educated nursing staff." And under what difficulties they have laboured! This mass of hospital servant-nurses which they attempted to elevate was coarse, rough, and illiterate. They had first to be taught to read and write! And where were they to get others? They can begin now to get a better grade of woman, but when they began their work this was impossible. And who could they get to help them? Their own women of refinement were not ready, and, unfortunately again, politics must be remembered. England was *persona non grata*, Germany was anathema, and, when they began, we were just beginning too; besides, the French are very proud. At any rate, they have worked at it themselves, and every year sees some improvement in the *personnel* of the great Paris hospitals. To-day the women of France are beginning to work at the problem, and so now I think these courageous and excellent men will do very wrong, or, rather, make a fatal mistake, if they do not turn to the women for help, for, after all, admirable though their efforts have been, their results are poor, and always will be unless they hand over the entire control and full management of their nursing staffs to trained women of superior education.

This is the thing that it will be hard for them to do, as we know. Far easier would it be to part with good healthy molars, yet this is the only thing that will enable them to perfect their service.

And now there are women of their own country ready to help them. Dr. Hamilton, with her trained pupils, in Bordeaux, and, in Paris, the graduates of the school under the presidency of Madame Salvador, who came to the Congress.

These young women, most carefully selected for character, good breeding, and careful education, are, I can confidently say, not to be surpassed in these points by the pupils of any training-school anywhere. After I had met them, and had had the pleasure of seeing the two tiny hospitals—one surgical and one medical, and both maintained by private enterprise (one being endowed by Madame Salvador, and the other gradually becoming self-supporting)—where

they work, with such refined and careful detail, and with a grace and cheerfulness impossible to describe, I felt as if I must run around to the "Assistance publique" and say, "Oh, *don't* you want to put these nurses in charge of your wards right away?"

Perhaps this would have been a little "previous" (to use a bit of slang), yet the impression was vivid of the opportunity at hand to adapt this admirable nucleus as a central school from which to nurse at least a certain group of the Paris hospitals, just as the New York City School on Blackwell's Island is related to five of the public hospitals of New York, sending its pupils from the Central Home, where all are taught and trained, to the hospitals, and making itself completely and successfully responsible for the whole nursing care of the patients.

If the directors of the Assistance Publique had seen this vision, with a Matron in charge of each hospital, qualified head nurses in each division, and the educated gentlewoman going daily to the wards from this central school with its atmosphere of refinement and ardent altruism, who can tell what they might think of it? L. L. Dock.

### A Matter of Principle.

Lady Victoria Campbell will earn the gratitude of all nurses who appreciate the importance of maintaining educational standards, and who hold that the poor should receive as skilled nursing care as the rich, by her resignation of the Presidentship of the North Argyll Nursing Association, an office which she has filled for ten years. The explanation which she gives in the *Oban Times* for this decision, in answer to the desire which has been expressed on many sides that she will reconsider it, is as follows:—

"I have had no choice in the matter, unless I was to be untrue to what seems to me 'first principles' regarding any association bound together for the express purpose of providing adequate sick-trained nursing for our destitute; and for all other cases which with increasing ratio come under the skilled care of our district nurses.

"To all interested in this subject it will be remembered that last September you kindly allowed a full explanation to appear why I could not accept the mandate of a specially-called meeting of 'subscribers' on the 18th of that month, to dismiss our Queen's Nurse of Kilfinichen (including Iona), for the sake of getting a 'cheaper one'—(this was the one *sine quid non* condition).

"In justice to these legislators in our nursing affairs, it is due to say, as I then mentioned, there is a clause in a by-law, which was printed in our Constitution of 1894, when the Cottage Hospital, with a trained Jubilee Nurse at its head, was started here, and necessarily some 'pro's' served under her, not (as yet) certificated; hence the clause runs—'Some of these nurses shall be certificated.'

"Miss Helen Gardyne, the foundress of our Association, cannot remember having seen this clause, but gives the above explanation of its having found its way into our printed bye-laws.

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