The ideal Superintendent will not be satisfied with concerning herself in the probationers' work, but will have pleasure in helping them plan their holidays, and, while discountenancing all extravagance, will take an interest in their toilets, criticise the "set" of their skirts, and give an opinion with regard to their new hats. While openly disliking a would-be fashionable tone among her workers, she should discourage anything needlessly dull, dowdy, and out of date, and not be too ready to check the more worldly—and often most helpful and kind-hearted—nurses, who wish to brighten up their duller comrades, "do" their hair more becomingly for them, and modernise their blouses. She desires earnestly to train excellent district nurses, but she recognises that the probationers have duties to themselves and to their relatives, and that these duties cannot always be discharged in uniform and with their hair parted in the middle and carefully flattened; and she does not entirely shut her eyes to the facts that young district nurses sometimes get married, and that it is an excellent thing for them when they do.

The Superintendent with this infusion of motherliness in her composition will not merely see that the probationers have a sufficiency of nourishing food, but will, if possible, gratify their palate, and even occasionally provide what children call "a treat"; in their rooms she will not be content with material comfort and the negative refinements of cleanliness and order, but seek for some positive touch of beauty and grace. She will always want the best for her pupils, and the best includes most varied elements. Does not every true mother wish her children to be happy as well as good, cultured as well as useful?

It is astonishing—but it is waste of time to be astonished—how curiously (or *in*curiously) ignorant many women brought up in fairly well-to-do middle-class homes are of all the small niceties of nursing attendance, and the strangely clumsy things they will do. I have known a probationer, with all the resources of a well-found hospital at her back, feed a year-old child with a tablespoon, even more indifferent than the baby to the thin stream flowing down at each corner of its tiny mouth and saturating the whole front of its nightshirt. What would she have used in a tenement—the fire shovel? I have seen a person, who I was assured was a "born nurse," handing a jagged tin of beef essence and a teaspoon (hot from her grasp) to an elderly and fanciful invalid, and saying, jauntily: "Help yourself; you can dig it out with that!" The highest possible standard of deftness and neatness must be maintained, and all slovenly and awkward ways looked on as a most serious drawback to a nurse's value.

Probationers when they first begin district work are often distressed, not only at the sight of so much poverty, but because they can, as they say, "do nothing"—nothing to relieve it, have "nothing to give." The Superintendent must point out to them that they are in fact giving a great deal, especially if they put all their heart and mind into their duties; and without trying to make them callous to the sight of pain and deprivation, she must tell them that it is difficult to estimate suffering, or to measure the real pressure of poverty on those who are actually enduring it. If it be true that "A jest's prosperity lies in the ear of him that hears it, never in the tongue of him that makes it," it is equally true that the troublousness of trouble depends largely upon the nature of the person on whom it falls.

Another point to which she must draw their attention is that the first persons who ought to give, when giving is necessary, are the patient's own relatives. It rarely happens that all the members of a large family are simultaneously in straitened circumstances, and some one or more members are usually in a distinctly better position. The labourer has commonly a well-paid artisan among his near relatives; the invalid mason or carpenter has an "own uncle" a substantial builder; the petty tradesman has a brother-in-law "in a large way of business," and these persons are often ready to give considerable help when the case is properly brought before them. There is no need to be discouraged because the poor member and the comparatively rich one have previously been on bad terms. Quite recently I heard of a mother who had quarrelled—and most excusably quarrelled—with her daughter, who yet, when trouble came in the daughter's family, almost unasked said at once, "If twenty pounds will be any use to her, she shall have it."

In great cities it is difficult to trace out all the ramifications of a large family, but in country neighbourhoods I have done it, and have found that three generations, in some cases two, will include paupers, agricultural labourers, artisans, prosperous farmers, owners of several thousand pounds worth of house property, rich shopkeepers, and well-established professional men. But even if all discoverable members of the family should be poor, they are not likely to be all ill, disabled, or out of work at the same time. When a mackintosh sheet or some other expensive item of the kind is required, the nurse should make the invalid count up all the relatives in a position to help her, and then let her ask each one of them for the fifth, or fifteenth, or whatever share it may be, of the cost. Failing the relatives, private or public charity must meet the case. For very many reasons it is desirable that material gifts should rarely be traced to the nurse.

All egoism in work must be held up to reprobation. Probationers must be taught to co-operate loyally with all those labouring, on whatever lines, to improve the general condition of the poor, and whether their aims are primarily religious, moral,

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