

and other reasons, the Matron's signature is accorded an honoured place on a nurse's certificate, and nurses, the medical profession, and the employers of nurses are wise to place a high value upon it, and to regard its possession as essential in the application for any appointment. If from time to time a Matron, for reasons which she can justify, declines to sign a certificate, this affords excellent proof that she regards her responsibility to the public seriously, and is the best evidence which can be offered to them that the powers entrusted to her will not be abused. What is a signature worth if it is automatically appended to every certificate?

Annotations.

HUMAN RAYS AND THEIR SPECTRA.

Dr. J. Stenson Hooker, writing in the *Lancet*, gives some interesting details of the result of his study during the last three years concerning human rays and their spectra. There are few now, he says, who do not acknowledge the existence of the "N" rays, but some adhere to the theory that they are merely heat vibrations. After demonstrating that this is not the case, he goes on to say:—"I have proved to my entire satisfaction that these rays have a spectrum just as an ordinary ray of light has; in fact, the different shades of colour which they emit are innumerable though quite apparent and easily differentiated by those—and there are many, some even in the medical profession—who have the gift of inner perception, the gift, that is, of being able to see a little further than most people into the vast world of attenuated matter.

"I have conducted during odd moments of the last three years some 300 experiments to test this question of the human-ray spectrum and the extraordinary unanimity of the results is astounding. The experiments have been carried out under conditions which preclude the possibility of guessing aright, and some of the results are as follows: Rays emanating from a very passionate man have a deep red hue; the one whose key-note in life is to be good and to do good throws off pink rays; the ambitious man emits orange rays; the deep thinker, deep blue; the lover of art and refined surroundings, yellow; the anxious, depressed person, grey; the one who leads a low, debased life throws off muddy-brown rays; the devotional, good meaning person, light blue; the progressive-minded one, light green; the physically or mentally ill, dark green, and so on. . .

I know perfectly well that these statements will be received by many with an amused smile of incredulity, as many other so-called 'discoveries' have at first; but I also know perfectly well that sooner or later they will become accepted facts."

The marvellous powers of the X-rays, and the wonderful discoveries of Marconi, have taught us that we are only on the fringe of the revelations science has in store for us, and he would be a bold man who would assert that anything is impossible. Are the "N" rays the explanation of the attraction which we instinctively feel for some people, and of the repulsion we have for others? Are they the cause of the "atmosphere" which surrounds people? Do we not all know how houses seem to absorb the characteristics of those who live in them, so that one feels at once on entering one house that the atmosphere is one of repose and calm, while another seems possessed by a spirit of unrest. It would be interesting to know if some people are more susceptible to the influence of the rays than others. If the colour of the rays emitted changes with the mood, and if one person can exercise therapeutic influence on another by means of the rays he emits. The subject is one which might be pursued indefinitely, and to students of human nature in its various phases must possess a great fascination. If Dr. Hooker is right then one of the duties incumbent on us in the future will certainly be to see to it that the rays we emit are beneficial ones.

LOYALTY.

We hear much about loyalty at the present day. "I cannot be disloyal" is given as a reason for doing this, or not doing that. By all means let us be loyal, to be otherwise were to be contemptible, but first let us be certain what we understand by loyalty.

The essence of loyalty is *fidelity to principles*, and if we adopt this view we cannot go wrong where matters of principle are involved. To take the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses, whoever supports or opposes this measure, each trained nurse must consider and decide upon her own position on this vital matter. An adult is accountable for his or her own actions, and cannot escape responsibility by taking shelter behind this person or that.

Let us realise that where matters of principle are involved, it does not matter *who* is right, but *what* is right, and let us base our actions on the rock of fidelity to principles.

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