

perfect ideal in nursing or hospital management, any more than in other things. Before my mind's eye floats the perfect hospital, and before my bodily eye stands the very human and imperfect structure with which I have to deal.

"What hand and brain went ever paired?
What heart alike conceived and dared?
What act proved all its thought had been?
What will but felt the fleshly screen?"

Think of it: a perfect hospital, spotlessly clean, everybody happy and contented, and eager to work until they drop in the last ditch; no one ever ill at inconvenient moments, a kitchen that never fails, a laundry whose linen is always sent up like driven snow, nothing ever torn; immaculate young residents, all medical and surgical geniuses; Sisters miracles of efficiency and tact; a discipline so carefully tempered that it neither crushes all individuality nor induces general slackness and sloppiness, and probationers positively longing to submit to all "necessary restrictions."

No cases ever going wrong; all typhoids recovering without a hitch, and never, never, never even a stitch suppurating on the surgical side; plenty of convalescent home letters, toys and pinafores for the children, no grumbling or discontented patients, but universal harmony and gratitude. Oh happy, happy hospital Utopia, when shall I come across you? And should I like you if I did?

M. MOLLETT.

A Presentation.

A very interesting gathering was held in the Matron's sitting-room at the Leicester Infirmary on Thursday, 17th inst., to present Sister Braye, who has been in the hospital for seventeen years as Nurse, Night Superintendent and Housekeeping Sister, with a gold watch, on her leaving to take up the post of Matron at the Mount Sorrel Hospital. Ninety-five past and present nurses subscribed to the testimonial—a proof of the great esteem in which Sister Braye is held by her fellow-workers.

A Democratic Profession.

The press just now is making copy of the fact that an Earl's daughter has entered a London hospital for training, a proceeding which the lady concerned would probably be the first to deprecate. The nursing profession is an essentially democratic one, affording an opportunity of happy and useful work to women of all classes, from the lady of high degree to the artisan. The essential point is, from a nursing point of view, not the station in life of the probationer, but the aptitude she shows in the wards. Quite a number of ladies of title have found their vocation in caring for the sick, but that is no reason why their names and lineage should be published in the press before they have won their spurs in the profession they have entered.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



At the annual meeting of the Sheffield Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor (Councillor Jones), Mr. Harold Boulton, the Hon. Treasurer of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, expressed his appreciation of the successful year's work of the Sheffield branch, which was only formed last year. He read a message which he had received on the previous evening from Her Majesty the Queen to be delivered to the meeting. It was as follows:—

Her Majesty the Queen, as Patron of the Queen's Nurses, congratulates Lady Fitzwilliam and the Sheffield Queen Victoria District Nursing Association on the very satisfactory progress they have made, and offers her best wishes for their future success. Her Majesty takes the deepest interest in the work of the Queen's Nurses among the sick and suffering poor.

At the close of the meeting Countess Fitzwilliam read the following telegram in reply:—

The Sheffield Queen Victoria District Nursing Association present their humble duty to Her Majesty, Queen Alexandra, and offer her their warmest thanks for the most gracious and kind message of encouragement to the work of the Queen's Nurses amongst the sick and suffering poor.

Miss McCaul's forthcoming book, "Under the Care of the Japanese War Office," will be dedicated by permission to the Queen. The work will be published by Messrs. Cassell.

The Russian Red Cross Sisters who are at the front are responding nobly to the calls made upon them, and many of them have suffered great hardships. At the battle of Liao-yang, one of the Sisters, who was leaving for the north, was struck by a fragment of a shell and killed. A recent Reuter telegram says that a Russian Red Cross nurse has just entered the Japanese lines and surrendered. She explained that she was the daughter of a Russian colonel, and had been sent expressly to care for a wounded Russian officer at Matsuyama, to which place she requested to be conveyed. Her request was granted.

We notice that the managers of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum recently received a communication from the Branch Asylum Committee

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