

more educated. With this increased responsibility and work there is all the more need for spiritual support and guidance."

Here is one thought which Canon Holmes suggests for the consideration of nurses:—"How often we speak slightly of our profession, as though we were half ashamed of it. 'Of course,' we say, 'I'm not obliged to work; I *needn't* nurse. I only take it up for something to do, or because I can't get on at home,' and so forth, thus lowering the dignity of one of the highest callings to the doubtful honour of an unworthy alternative. So, again, it is not an unknown weakness for us to be far more touchy about our social status than about the dignity of our profession; and so just possibly we miss the work we may be sent to do. Take, for instance, work amongst servants. From time to time you are sent to nurse in houses, hotels, on board ship, in institutions. In such places the real lady-nurse is she who most impresses her 'fellow servants' with the dignity of service, and with the royalty of her profession."

Again, on the subject of night duty, the writer says:—"A quiet night! Is there not, as a matter of experience, a strange unearthly power about the night! Some of us can remember the nameless fear which came upon us as children, when left alone in the dark. We can still see in thought the old scenes—that dark road we ran along so quickly, racing the deepening shadows; that dark avenue we hastened through, seeing an unreal phantom in every bush and shrub; that dark passage; that dark staircase; that dark room. . . . Surely you know something of this mysterious power of night, as you note the patient's changing temperature, or watch the growing restlessness of the insane, and the unquiet picking of the bedclothes as the night advances or the moon shines brighter. Surely you have felt this wonderful 'something' as you have drawn up the blind and looked at the early dawn, and then, with a half shiver, half instinctively turned away—and made a cup of tea!"

Conspicuous among the audience at the Torrey-Alexander Mission at the Albert Hall were the uniformed nurses who occupied a box nearly opposite the speaker. By the thoughtfulness of Lady Kinnaird this box was reserved for the use of nurses throughout the mission, and was a great boon to those who desired to attend, for nurses are busy people, who, as a rule, can only get to meetings at the last minute, and, at the Albert Hall, to arrive late meant probably to share the fate of the thousands who were perforce turned away from the doors. The nurses, however, could go straight to their own box, where they could see and hear everything from an excellent vantage point.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, who presided on Saturday at the first annual meeting of the Wiltshire County Nursing Association, held at Wilton House, the seat of the Earl of Pembroke, said that the new departure which these county nursing associations were making was one of the utmost importance. They all felt that the care of the sick was not a matter to be treated haphazard, but that it was one of the most important, and almost one of the most scientific, duties which any human being could perform towards fellow men and women. When they read their papers, were they not moved by the accounts of the sufferings of the soldiers in the Far East, lying sick and wounded with perhaps only one nurse to many thousands of sufferers? Had they not been open, however, to the reproach here in England that the sick and wounded of their daily life had been left too often without proper or skilled care? That was a blot on our social system which he hoped was going to be removed once and for all.

It is necessary, however, to remember that the standard of education of the nurses who are to perform these scientific duties is of the utmost importance. It is not attained by qualifying as a midwife and obtaining an insight into nursing work in the course of a few months, though useful work as a midwife may be accomplished under these conditions. The line of demarcation between a midwife and a nurse cannot be too sharply drawn where educational standards are concerned.

To those who pass their lives amid the crowded streets of London, with the noise and dust of ceaseless traffic, and the perpetual jostling to which, perforce, they are bound to submit, the words, "A Week in the Country," bring visions of quiet refreshment which many sigh for in vain.

Most sad, perhaps, is the lot of the poor patients in London hospitals, who look abroad on smoke and chimneys, longing for the opportunity of escaping to surroundings where peace and brightness would bring fresh life to their tired and worn-out bodies. Many hospitals have convalescent homes in connection with their institutions, where patients can be sent for three weeks or a month to help their complete recovery, but others are dependent for this benefit on the generosity of individuals. The Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women is, unfortunately, amongst this latter class, and the authorities are often at their wits' end to know how to provide the necessary change of air and rest for their recovering patients before sending them back to their poverty-stricken homes.

Any who sympathise with the needs of this suffering class of humanity, and have it in their power to assist by granting letters of admission to convalescent homes, are asked to communicate with the Secretary of the Royal Waterloo Hospital. Such help would be most gratefully received.

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