

by-paths, and who can blame her for shunning the straight and narrow way.

Nurses are a peculiarly dependent and poorly-paid class of women, and their temptations to disloyalty are ready to hand.

Instead, therefore, of blaming the many for their lack of loyalty and sense of honour, let us realise how splendidly the few have demonstrated that British nurses, if only the minority, are possessed of the virtues which have made the nation great, and look forward to the time when, with increased responsibility, all women will be strong and true.

THE FAITHFUL FEW.

As there are a minority of women who love right more than life, so there are a minority of men whose ideals are no less worthy, and it is because we hold both these classes in the highest admiration that we have worked for, and with, those nurses who place first the public good and are prepared to submit their case to those appointed to consider it.

The nurses of the United Kingdom have now an opportunity for proving the justice of their cause, and we are glad to learn that so many of their representatives are seeking to avail themselves of this opportunity to lay their case before the Select Committee of the House of Commons.

Annotations.

THE STANDING OF NURSES ON BOARD SHIP.

Periodically the question of the desirability of employing trained nurses on passenger ships crops up in the daily press, and the writer of an article in a contemporary once more draws attention to this need, speaking in flattering terms of the value and comfort of the services of trained nurses ashore, and contrasting the rasping voice of the ordinary stewardess with the "faint, sweet echoes of a remembered voice that inspired betterment every time it made itself heard."

Why not, asks this writer, have trained nurses on board as a section of the stewardess staff? The answer from the nurse's point of view is plain. It is that she already has a well-defined occupation of her own, and she is not, if she is worth her salt, going to take on the work of a stewardess. That the services of trained nurses are desirable on passenger ships is unquestionable, but a trained nurse cannot be expected to sign an agreement as a stewardess, ranking thereby as a domestic, and placing herself under

the direction of the purser, who has power to direct that the only sleeping accommodation for her is on the saloon tables when that apartment is vacated by the passengers further, that she must take her meals where she can. A place must be created for the trained nurse if her services are to be secured. She must rank as an officer, as does the doctor, and take her meals at the passengers' table.

In regard to the selection for such positions of nurses who are tired out with nursing work ashore, and are on the verge of a breakdown, we may point out that the combination of business and philanthropy is never a happy one. In the present case, nurses require to be seasoned sailors if they are to be of practical use, and they should take up the work in all seriousness, not as an inexpensive method of obtaining a change. If steamship companies and passengers desire to secure the services of trained nurses, let them secure for them proper status and accommodation.

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

The pronouncement of the Prince of Wales at the Annual Meeting of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London in relation to the dissociation of the Fund from the support of Medical Schools will be received with unqualified satisfaction. His Royal Highness said:—

"Individual subscribers, and even the whole body of subscribers, to a particular hospital are in a different position from that of subscribers to the King's Fund. It must be remembered that our fund collects many small sums from people who wish to do something for the sick poor, but who have no special interest in any one hospital, or in anything but the ordinarily accepted objects of the hospitals.

"While this subject of medical schools remained in doubt, while we were assured that for various reasons it was in the interests of the sick poor that the hospitals should assist in maintaining the schools, we were entitled to accept that view, and we did so. But now that we have in our hands the report of Sir Edward Fry's Committee we are bound to act upon its recommendations, and to reconsider the policy which we have hitherto followed."

That the endowment of Medical Education may form a suitable object for the philanthropy of the wealthy is unquestionable, but the point in connection with the King's Fund is that those who subscribe to it have hitherto had no option on this point. We are glad that this real grievance has been removed.

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