

a nurse's activity and usefulness lay in the number of patients she nursed or in the number of visits she made; whereas it was self-evident that one patient might remain on the books for twelve months or more and appear in the report as one case only, while it had entailed daily visits from month end to month end, and a great deal more arduous nursing than many shorter cases had to get. Then, as regarded the number of visits, it was also obvious that the length of a visit depended on the amount of attention which the nurse had to give to the individual patients, and that the more actual nursing she had to do in a house the fewer cases she would be able to attend to in a day, and the smaller would be the total at the end of the year. She thought much stress should be laid on this point, because it would be greatly to be deprecated if any other nurses had ever to work under the impression that they must make a certain number of visits or disappoint their committee, and more especially so because of the accepted fact that perhaps the most important function discharged by their nurses was that of health missionary. They in this country were only just beginning to realise how important it was to have a healthy population. Royal Commissions had been sitting to inquire into physical degeneracy, and societies had been started to promote physical training and a better knowledge of hygiene and domestic economy, and here in their very midst, already started and fully organised, they had an agency in their nurses, which, above and beyond all others, were able to combat the evil of physical degeneracy, which had its source in the home and in the ignorance of the mother. They must remember, as regards physical culture, that they had fallen behind other nations. Abroad, owing to conscription, every man had to serve his country under arms, and anything that unfitted him for military service depreciated his value as a citizen. Public attention was called to the disabilities of ill-health, and a standard of health was unconsciously set up. She hoped the day would come when hygiene would be properly taught in their schools, when their school children would have to go through a medical examination, and when there would be a properly co-ordinated and arranged physical training for the youth of their country. But, meantime, they should do all they could to encourage nurses, who were doing more than anyone else at present, to raise the physical standard, and teach the laws of health amongst the poorest of the population.

The report having been seconded and adopted, Sir Wm. Whitla, M.D., in proposing the resolution, "That this meeting recognises the great benefits of district nursing and cordially supports the work of the Bangor District Nursing Society," said the resolution which had been entrusted to his hands needed no speech to bring it home to the hearts and

minds of the people of Bangor. The first part of that resolution dealt with the subject of district nursing in the abstract, and all that need be said upon that point might be condensed into a few brief sentences. Of the numerous organisations peculiar to Christian philanthropy it was one of the most noble. This was, if anything, an utilitarian age, and district nursing responded to the spirit of the age, for, of all the schemes of Christian charity ever devised, none gave such a bounteous return with such limited expenditure of money. As a medical man, he was very glad to have that opportunity of expressing the deep gratitude which the members of his profession felt towards their nursing colleagues. They knew that without their invaluable aid they would often fail utterly in their fight against disease and death. How seldom had he known any real friction between the doctor and the nurse; never, indeed, except in the case of the young practitioner before he realised the full seriousness of his life-work. The work of the district nurse was a hard one, and her lot seemed cast in unpleasant places, but he knew of no more glorious life or more exalted calling unless it be that of the medical man who devoted himself to attendance upon the poor."

After the passing of the motion and the adoption of the usual votes of thanks,

Lady Dufferin thanked the mover and seconder very heartily for the kind things they had said regarding her. They were very deeply indebted to Sir William Whitla. It did not become her to speak of Lady Helen Ferguson, but she (Lady Dufferin) did think she had brought into that meeting something interesting, and she thought also exceedingly well expressed. Although she was Lady Helen's mother, she thanked her for being there that day and helping them in the work. With regard to the officers of the Society, all she could say was that in aiding to alleviate the suffering and the discomforts of the sick poor, they had been privileged in taking part in such a noble work, and they did not wish to be thanked for their very small part of it.

I like that little touch of maternal appreciation of a brilliant daughter. How often one reads of the pride and devotion of mothers in the successful careers of their sons, and why should they not naturally feel the same delight in the intellectual capacity of their daughters? It is but right and just.

A DAUGHTER OF ERIN.

"Bart's" and "Guy's" were both *en fête* on Wednesday. At the former, Lord Ludlow, the Treasurer, presented the students' prizes; and at the latter a Garden Party was held, and the medals and prizes were distributed by P. H. Pye-Smith, Esq., M.D., F.R.S. The Gordon Museum of Pathology, recently completed, was open to inspection.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)