

the sub-conscious belief that it is much freer from complications and needs much less serious study than our own. Secondly, because, like the classical instance of Don Quixote and the farmer's boy, we understand far too little of the case to give our interference any chance of being effectual. Thirdly, and perhaps chiefly, because we are so commonly smitten with the desire to benefit the persons who are farthest from ourselves and the conditions of whose lives we are least fitted to understand, just as excellent English people a hundred years ago lived lives of toil and contumely in order to free African negroes, and were blind and deaf to the wrongs endured by tens of thousands of their little white countrymen in the factories, mines and brickfields that they passed every day of their lives. Fourthly, because we are too soon discouraged and apt to think that our efforts have been useless because they have had no immediate result. Unless we can do, or appear to do, the whole of a thing ourselves we dub it other people's business, and do nothing.

If there is a wall to be built we are not content with the modest and essential office of digging a small part of the foundation; if a wall is to be demolished, we scorn such a success as loosening the mortar of a single stone. We are not satisfied to supply part of the cumulative force which will finally overthrow opposition. We desire not merely that the enemy may be defeated, but that his scalp shall hang on our own belt; we do not merely wish that our friend's opinion or practice shall be changed, but that we shall be the acknowledged cause of his conversion.

If we can learn to regard interference with "other people's business" neither as a pleasure nor as a "good work" to be taken up and let drop as the whim seizes us, but as a serious and weighty duty, we shall be in less danger of cowardly passivity and of careless, spasmodic, or needless interference.

The Nurses' Conversazione.

The Conversazione which is being organised by the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, will be held on the evening of June 14th, at the Galleries of the Royal Society of British Artists, 6A, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W. Members of affiliated nursing societies should keep this date free, as it is hoped that this gathering may be a very pleasant social function.

Further details of the arrangements will be published next week.

A Pleasant Function.

Miss Glover, of St. Ives Private Hospital, Melbourne, gave a very pleasant dinner party to Miss Burleigh, Matron of the Melbourne Hospital, and Miss Brayshay, the Hon. Secretary of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, before they left on a visit to England. In proposing the health of the guests of the evening, Miss Glover spoke of the high standards which they had established in the nursing profession in Melbourne, and said she felt sure they would return with many new and helpful ideas. Miss Brayshay responded in a very happy speech.

American Nursing Notes.

Miss Margaret A. Shanks and Miss Mae Nichols, the nurses who cared for Miss Susan B. Anthony in her last illness, have been notified that they have been made life members of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association. They were made aware of this through a letter from Harriet Taylor Upton, treasurer for the national association, who wrote that the honour had been conferred because of their "tender care of our beloved leader." Miss Shanks comes from Rochester, U.S.A., and graduated from the Training School of the Homœopathic Hospital in 1897. Miss Nichols is from Lynn, Mass., where she received a diploma from the Training School of Union Hospital. At the time Miss Anthony rallied she said to her physician, "My nurses are without parallel."

The American Superintendents have always shown themselves possessed of great public spirit. Here is an example of their thoroughness.

At the meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training School, held in New York, April 25, 26, 27, the motion was made that the members should volunteer in a body for service in the Eligible Volunteer List of the United States Army. The motion was carried unanimously.

Miss Isabel McIsaac's description of the new Cranford doings, which has been published in the *American Journal of Nursing*, is now published in book form, and can be obtained from the office of that Journal, 227, South Sixth Street, Philadelphia. The price is 25 cents.; Foreign postage 5 cents. extra. Besides the original contribution Miss McIsaac has given the directors' permission to offer the work as a prize to any subscriber who will send in one or more new subscriptions.

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