

expressions or medical terms unless you are absolutely certain of their meaning and fitness or you will only make yourself look absurd.

C.—NICETY

is the next definition before us.

Dr. Johnson tells us that this means "fastidious delicacy," if you have ever been unfortunate enough to have a long or severe illness I am sure enough you will agree with me that it is just the possession of this fastidious delicacy or the want of it on the part of the nurse that makes all the difference to the patient.

This nicety is well worth cultivating, manner goes a long way towards making a good nurse, an unpleasant duty may often lose its unpleasantness if carried out with a nicety (a fastidious delicacy) and an avoidance of hurting the feelings of your patient in any degree.

Again remember that the patients in a hospital ward are keen critics of your work and behaviour; what an education it is for the dirty, the careless and the shiftless to see the attention you pay to detail, that you consider nothing as beneath your notice and that the most tiresome of your duties and the most troublesome of your patients are just the very ones that call forth your best powers and ingenuity.

Try and realise what "nicety" means in your everyday ward-work. Why is the dusting always the duty of nurse and not that of a wardmaid? Is it not because we expect the former to appreciate the niceties of cleanliness?

Think again how much "little things" have to do with the comfort of your patient, what a few crumbs under the back of a helpless man may mean! but one might multiply examples without end, the conclusion of the whole matter will be still the same, no one can make a good nurse who does not appreciate the all importance of "little things."

D.—THE PRECISION WHICH RESULTS FROM CARE

should describe the manner in which every detail of your work is performed. The very essence of your training consists in learning to concentrate your energies on details.

Think over any single mistake you have made, any blunder you have committed, and you will find that in every case you can trace the fault to want of care in some particular.

And now one last word about the little courtesies of everyday life, the oil that makes the machine run smoothly: remember that impatience and rudeness are the unpardonable sins in nursing. Never let the little annoy-

ances and troubles which must crop up affect your work or appear in your dealings with your patients.

I am quite certain that no one has it in her power to make so many persons miserable if she happens to be in a bad temper as a nurse in a hospital ward.

The best Sister or the best nurse in an institution is not by any means always the most intellectual but rather the one who never fails in the exactness of her work, in her exact conformity to truth both in word and deed, in the fastidious delicacy of her dealings with her patients mentally, morally, and physically; in the precision which results from unrelaxed care in every detail no matter how trivial, and in her sweet reasonableness of temper and never failing courtesy towards those with whom she is brought in contact:—

"A little thing is a little thing,
But faithfulness in little things is a great thing."

HELEN TODD.

League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

The following certificated nurses have joined the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses: Miss E. G. Rogers, Miss N. A. Green, Miss Lilian Moore, Miss A. Lillingston, Miss E. B. Dewsbury, Miss F. Connell, Miss A. Bryant, Miss A. B. Wade Gery, Miss A. C. Binnian, Miss N. Mundy.

The Nurses' Conversazione.

Mr. Algernon Clarke, the talented Musical Director of many of the most delightful bands well known in London will himself conduct the London Viennese Band, which will discourse sweet music at the Conversazione. Sousa's splendid marches will form part of the programme, also "Violets," "Forget-me-Not," Czardas, Chansons, a Cake Walk, and many other favourite pieces have been selected. Cheery enlivening music to go well with talkee talkee, is most appreciated at such a social gathering.

Tickets can be obtained at the Office, 431, Oxford Street, W., or of Miss Barton, Matron, Chelsea Infirmary, S.W.

Secretaries of affiliated societies and Leagues may have a few dozens, on sale or return. The price of members' tickets are 1s. 6d. (not 1s. 3d. as announced last week in Macmillan's paper) and 2s. 6d. for guests. Early application should be made for tickets,

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