

of good nursing, and yet you have not grasped the key to success in it, if you do not remember how responsible and serious from now on your work must ever be. We hear so much these days of the "white-capped Angel of Mercy," and the pedestal that sentimentalists would put you on, that it is a wonder that some of you have not already begun to look for angel wings. These things are all right in their time and place, but caring for sick humanity is too responsible and dignified a task to be spoken of lightly. Not that we would have nurses wearing solemn faces and looking at life altogether through solemn eyes; the more brightness and cheer and sunshine you can bring into your own lives, the more you will have to give out to those you may be called upon to serve.

No one profession open to women requires so much and no profession gives such a rich reward. You give out day in and day out, year in and year out, of yourself, mentally, morally and physically, and whether you nurse in the homes of the rich, in order to earn your living, and mayhap that of others, or in the homes of the poor, because you care more for this service, it is all the same high grade womanly woman that must perform the work, and you the young women, coming fresh from your training, are the very ones to lead the public and your sister nurses to put your profession on an unmistakably high plane. "No life can be strong in its purpose and all life not be stronger and better thereby."

When you are choosing your special line of work, you will forgive me if I urge you here, not to forget the care of the sick in the homes of the poor.

Years ago women of refinement and culture and high social rank came from far and wide to offer their services in response to the cry from the battlefields. To-day it is the cry from the battlefield of illness and poverty in the homes of the poor that needs the same stamp of women to respond, and it is without any sentimentality that I urge you to share your knowledge and skill in the care and uplifting of your people.

"The Holy Supper is kept, indeed,  
In whatso we share with another's need;  
Not what we give, but what we share,  
For the gift without the giver is bare;  
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,  
Himself, his hungering neighbour, and Me."

A friend of the nursing profession says:  
"The trouble with the rank and file of our nurses is that they are spoiled in their training, for the one great dominant impulse of the true nurse, old-fashioned as well as new and trained,

should be the tender love of the sick and suffering, a sense of having a mission in the world only rightly fulfilled when with warm heart and skilled hands some little bit of the world's woe is lightened. We have often thought that each training school should have a chair on the humanities, continually emphasising to the nurse the emotional, humane, and religious side of her calling. It is the testimony of a great surgeon that we see too much science (so-called) and too little regard for the divine calling in almost all our training schools. Let us have science and let us have humanity, but let us not have science without humanity, *i.e.*, the love of devotion which filled Florence Nightingale's heart, and without which there can be no true successful nurse."

I have not intended to become personal, but I have loved this school from the beginning, and I cannot refrain from saying to the supporters of this institution, even if you stopped right here you will have given to the working world one useful woman, who gives the school sufficient credit to last many a day. I refer to Miss Gertrude Ward, a worker in the homes of the poor, whose fine example of a true district nurse is worth while for you to emulate. I say this with no fear of spoiling Miss Ward. Surely Provident Hospital Training School can have no higher mission than to teach, along with skilled nursing, the great principles of humanitarianism.

Your Superintendent, your Institution, your Hospital Board have done their duty by you, to the limit. See to it that you return it in full measure.

I wish each one of you a sincere God speed.

---

### Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association.

---

The importance to nursing associations of their professional journal received ample testimony at a recent meeting of the Council of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association when ways and means were discussed. The official organ reports:—

Dr. Vance remarked that there were a certain small section of nurses in registered homes who were two and three years in arrears, and who had not applied for any exemption. It was time they were finally dealt with.

The President said it seemed incredible that members of such a noble profession should not think their Association worth supporting at the nominal cost of half a guinea a year. He

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)