

"Life is a school of compassion for those who nurse the sick. They stand as if before the cross, learning the lesson of tender sympathy, and how can this be learned without *charity*?"

"The stronger we are, the more we feel the force of our club motto, the French proverb: 'Noblesse Oblige.'

"This doctrine, one of the most beautiful of human conventions was a law of the Middle Ages—the literal translation being nobility obliges, and was based upon the proposition that a man being born noble could do no mean thing; it is not good form; that noble birth or rank compelled noble acts, hence the obligation of noble conduct imposed by nobility. There never was a time when man had not a fellow feeling for his brother man; but his brother man was a member of his own class or tribe, and only those came within the horizon of his sympathy. Nobility owed something to nobility, but not to the peasant class; later the sympathies included all classes of whatever nation, and to the influence of charity the development of humanity may be attributed. 'Noblesse Oblige' has grown into a spirit of humanity, not that the person is aware he belongs to the noblesse, the world's noblest and greatest through the insignia of character, but because, being unconsciously noble and great, he cannot help being tender to others; cannot help having charity for others.

"Strength makes tenderness, and while we pledge ourselves to have a sympathetic feeling for the members of our association, let us have charity for all classes.

"Mr. Carnegie considers what he shall do to benefit, not the men of his own class, but men who have no class relation to him, thus forming a catholic philanthropy, a *catholic charity*. Charity makes one broad-minded, makes one able to meet the views of rival forces without dread, enables one to seek every kind of relevant opinion before he forms his own; it is only the greatest who can be a partisan without bitterness, to feel that your enemy can fight you to death without malice, with charity. It lifts the country, it lifts humanity to something worth dying for, said Lincoln.

"This charity is a wonderful virtue, uplifting both sides, this charity which covers more misunderstandings than pillars of immortelles can ever do.

"Take it for your watchword."

These watchwords are very helpful. Thus the International Council of Nurses worked for its first quinquennial period under the watchword "Work," and its present watchword is "Courage."

Miss Lawson, one of the workers at Shefamer, an out-station of the medical mission at Acca, Palestine, recently wrote home:—

There are many old women who gain a living by burning the babies—a burn on top of head or four on abdomen cures diarrhoea! A larger one over the spleen cures malaria, one at the knee-joint with a pea inserted to keep it open is used frequently for a pain anywhere above that part. This causes sup-

uration, and the patient thinks the pus is coming from the painful part. Some of our most dirty ulcers come from our old women's burnings. The naughtiest of all these old women came to the doctor the other day with a growth that required actual cautery. I am afraid I felt rather glad to know she had to feel herself what the pain was like that she so often inflicts on the wee babies. After it was over I said to her: "Did you like being burnt?" She said "No." So I told her to think before she burnt the next baby. "Oh!" said she, "they don't feel as I do." I am afraid she is as naughty as ever, for I had four babies last week, all of whom had been burnt with hot iron."

### Legal Matters.

A terrible murder occurred at Southampton on Sunday afternoon, of a barmaid named Beatrice Owen. Her husband, who is stated to be a trained nurse attached to the Male and Female Trained Nurses' Association, 45, Beaumont Street, W., who was at Southampton on sick leave, was arrested on the spot on the capital charge.

At the Hertford Assizes last week, Elizabeth Taylor, described as a nurse, was charged with the murder of her husband. Both were at one time attendants at the Leavesden Asylum. The evidence for the Crown, was that the deceased man suffered from acute pain, suggesting symptoms of poisoning. He was removed to hospital, and as soon as his wife, who it was stated was resentful at having previously been sent to an asylum, on account of her drinking habits, ceased to have access to him, the symptoms of poisoning ceased. Sir Thomas Stevenson, of the Home Office, stated that the disease present had been caused in the first instance by poison, but there was no evidence of it in the man's stomach. The judge held that there was no case against the prisoner, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and she was discharged.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has taken up the case of "Nurse" Miller, who had a maternity home at Woodbine Place, Clarendon Road, Leeds, against whom grave charges are made of administering noxious drugs, and of burning the bodies of infants. The police have found calcined human bones in the ashes of the kitchen range.

We refer to these terrible cases in order to show the need for the establishment of a Governing Body for the nursing profession, which besides beginning educational standards will maintain discipline in its ranks.

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