

trying days—she greets the relatives, remembering that in her they see salvation for their dear one. She understands what hopes are founded on her, what joy she can put in the heart of the sufferer, and those from whom he is separated, by a few genial words and a kindly manner, which denote her mission in life.

“The good nurse knows well what an hour of anxiety and agony it is for the new patient who arrives in hospital. Sometimes indeed he is an ‘old hospital bird,’ an old *habitué* inclined to look upon himself as quite at home in the house of the sick; but much more frequently the patient is a being depressed by misery, and by physical and moral sufferings, who has been brought to this establishment, whose reputation is unknown to him.

“The populace is prompt in adding faith to legends. It believes easily that the sick are ill-treated. Lately, one of the important morning papers contained, I cannot tell you what a horrible picture of our hospitals. All things combine to frighten a new arrival; the noise of the wards, the overalls of the students, the long row of beds, the smell of carbolic or ether. It is this wounded one, a prey to sufferings, who is put in the care of the nurse. At this difficult moment, a kind word, a friendly greeting will give the unfortunate one infinite consolation. He has just been separated from his own, who were unable to nurse him; he ought to feel that in hospital, though he cannot expect the same affection, he will be equally kindly treated. When everything frightens and oppresses him, he will grip willingly, if she puts it out, the friendly hand of the nurse.

“Let us then understand the true meaning of this humanity which ought to reign in a hospital. No sacrifice of oneself, no renouncing the world; you can be an excellent nurse without daily facing death, modern science gives us the means of mitigating and of avoiding contagion. It is a duty not to neglect them. It is not a question of a rare and an exceptional act, but what is infinitely harder is to accomplish every day, and to begin again the next day a varied task, often revolting, and to do it without hesitation, with that quiet equable will of the one who knows her duty, who has freely chosen her mission in life, and seeks in her work for others the opportunity of demonstrating its nobility.

“The profession of a nurse is not a mere trade, it is something loftier. In hospital you are dealing with human lives—this is what marks and distinguishes it from other trades.”

M. André Mesureur then deals with the educational part of the training of a nurse and

the necessity of possessing a diploma at [the present time.

He speaks too of the necessity, in these days, of sufficient knowledge to enable the nurse to understand intelligently the appliances used in therapeutics and surgery, and emphasises the fact that a nurse must make a point of learning every branch of her profession and only specialising after she had her general training.

He then speaks of all the reforms which have been taking place for the Nursing Staff of the *Assistance Publique*. The salaries are being raised, the food is improved and more varied, the housing and lodging of the nurses is receiving consideration—there are convalescent homes for them—and those who seem inclined to be tubercular are sent to Forges-les-Bains. And, finally, he speaks about all the unnecessary waste of which many nurses seem to be guilty in all parts of the world, viz., carelessness in breaking thermometers, the use of absorbent wool instead of a duster, and of the poor draw-sheets which mop up all sorts of liquids and dirt, and shows that if each nurse wastes only a pennyworth daily, at the end of the year there is a loss of £9,200 to the funds of the *Assistance Publique*. And he concludes, “There are many who will listen to the high conception of a nurse we put before them. They must consider this high ideal and they must have confidence. Some will attain it, provided they grasp the responsibilities of their work and of all the width, breadth, and delicacy of the profession of a nurse.”—*Translated by E. R. W.*

St. Patrick's Nurses' Home, Dublin.

There was a large attendance at the Annual Meeting of the friends and supporters of St. Patrick's Nurses' Home for supplying trained nurses to the sick poor in their own homes, which was held in Molesworth Hall, Dublin, on Friday in last week. The Archbishop of Dublin presided, and her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen was present, as well as many distinguished medical men, and a number of the nursing staff of the Home. A most satisfactory report was read by Major Courtenay. The staff consists of the Superintendent, the District Superintendent, five Staff Nurses, and a temporary nurse, with four or five Queen's Probationers. The cases nursed have numbered 2,122. Dr. Swanzy, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, moved a resolution, which was adopted:—“That St. Patrick's Nurses' Home continues to have a special claim on the sympathy and support of all who desire to relieve the wants of the sick poor.”

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