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## Editorial.

### FRIENDSHIP.

Not one of the least charms of life in a large hospital is the opportunity it affords for meeting others whose aims, aspirations and tastes are the same as our own, and whose companionship is congenial to us. As in the case of public schools and universities the friendships formed in hospital during a three years' training are often of life-long duration, and have a correspondingly important influence. Sudden intimacies are therefore unwise, and the new probationer should weigh the worth of new acquaintances before entering hastily upon a friendship which she may later on have reason to regret.

Do we realise what an important part friendship plays in the lives of us all? Dreary indeed would life be without friends, and can we not gratefully call to mind how much we owe to our friends? There is one perhaps to whom through the long years stretching back into girlhood we have always turned for counsel, for sympathy, for encouragement, for stimulus, when the duties of life have permitted us to seek her society, and have never turned in vain. We may thank God for such a friendship, it is one of His best gifts.

There are some who have made life a larger and happier place for us, perhaps by introducing to our notice a new writer, whose books have had a charm and a message for us which have been an influence for the rest of our days, and yet others who have made us welcome in their homes, have allowed us to share their family life, and to see how sweet a thing, how inspiring, how helpful the life of a good woman may be when it is lived for unselfish ends, and its object is to inspire those with whom

it comes in contact with high ideals, with courage, and with a sense of personal responsibility.

But the fact that friendship may be so powerful an influence for good proves also that there is a reverse side, and that an unwise friendship, perhaps thoughtlessly entered upon, may prove a matter for life-long regret. In a hospital, as in a college, a probationer is judged very much by the "set" to which she attaches herself, and she should therefore weigh her actions well. Young, eager, trustful, and probably rather lonely, it is easy for her to become quickly intimate with any one who makes friendly overtures. It is quite possible that they may come from one who will prove a kindred spirit and whose friendship she will always thenceforth value. At the same time while courteous to all, and appreciative of any acts of kindness shown her, a probationer will do well to pause before giving her friendship to any new acquaintance. A certain amount of reticence is a quality which is desirable in any woman, more especially in a nurse. It will stand her in good stead when in private nursing she is thrown with all sorts and conditions of people, many of whom are genuinely kind to her. Here again she will be wise to abstain from sudden and violent friendships and to maintain the attitude of general courtesy and friendliness which should characterise the professional worker.

Life is too short and too full to hold for us many close friendships, and we shall do well to form them with discrimination, and care. But once formed let us see to it that we are true and loyal to our friends, in their absence as well as in their presence, remembering that friendship has its obligations, and consists in giving as well as taking.

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