

of the same Nurse beyond a regulation period this can be done by extra payment. Now, I ask whose are the increased risk, the extra worry, the prolonged strain, for which the public readily pay an extra sum? Surely it is the Nurse's? Does she ever get the increased pay? Not in my experience, for apparently such always goes to swell the receipts of the Institution. It would, however, be only fair that at least a large share of the increased remuneration should be handed to the Nurse, and I would fain hope that some day this measure of justice will be recognised and generally acted upon.

I cannot conclude without touching briefly on yet one more important abuse. In busy times—and especially in the case of popular Nurses who are constantly asked for—there is little pity or consideration shown by some institutions to its employées. The moment one returns to the home from perhaps a heavy and lengthened case, it is by no means infrequent to be dispatched instantly to another. I have known a Nurse sent off in this way in the cab which fetched her from one station and very long journey, off to another long journey and heavy case, without even a cup of tea. I think it very wrong to overtax a Nurse's strength, and perhaps damage her health, because they are her capital, and very likely all she has to depend upon in the world, and when they are weakened or destroyed she is left helpless indeed. The correction of this abuse can only follow good and kindly management of the Nursing Home, which brings us to where we started from, and the beginning and ending of the whole question.

I trust I have not trespassed too long upon your attention, and that at any rate I have brought forward some matters of prime importance to us all, and upon which there must be many here to-night well able to express valuable opinions from practical experience. I have briefly sketched some of the objects which should be reached in an ideal institute, not with the hope that we may get everything at once, but because the first step towards obtaining what we need is knowing exactly what we want.

THE END.

THE bravest and most clear-headed are also the most patient; they know how to "bide their time"—simply another form of expression for patience. Where two men—generals, diplomatists, or lawyers—are equals in everything but patience, the one who has the most of that sovereign quality will triumph; and the same is true of governments and nations. "Let patience have her perfect work."

THE INTRODUCTORY LECTURE
TO A
COURSE OF LECTURES ON NURSING,

GIVEN TO THE PROBATIONER NURSES AT THE
CARDIFF INFIRMARY,

BY DR. SHEEN, SURGEON TO THE INFIRMARY.

- 1.—*Qualifications for Success as a Nurse.*
- 2.—*Some Objectionable Types of Nurses.*
- 3.—*Duties and Relations to (A) the Doctor, (B) the Patient, (C) the Ward Sister or Staff Nurse, (D) Yourself and Each Other.*

Perfection consists mainly in attention to little things.

THERE are now many published works on Nursing, and the work is well done. To go over the ground covered by such works by lectures seems almost superfluous and a waste of time. Lectures and demonstrations are, nevertheless, necessary, for in addition to what they may teach you, they tend to help you in your work, by pointing out the direction which your studies should take.

Do not carry away with you the baneful notion that lectures are sufficient for you. Let me tell you at once that, though a necessary part of your instruction, they form the least important part of it. It is mainly in the Wards, and at the patient's bedside, that you must learn your work—how to *do* and how to *observe* the many things which I may speak of in these lectures.

Before commencing the definite instruction which it will be my duty to give you, I propose to devote this, the first lecture, more particularly to some observations on the *general qualifications for success as a Nurse*.

Nursing the sick may almost be called a divine art; and perfection in Nursing can hardly be gained without a strong religious conviction of the importance of its duties, and a desire to perform those duties from a love of the work, and not merely for *gain*. That is my first point. If you come here to learn Nursing, simply and only with a view to gaining your livelihood by it, then you will fail—fail lamentably. You must not imagine that, because you are a woman, or that, may be, you think you should like the work, that, therefore, you are fitted for Nursing. Do not think that *any woman* can become a Nurse, or that it is easy to become a *good Nurse*. That is a very great mistake, and if you make that mistake at the beginning of your training, and do not very soon correct it, you *never will become a good Nurse*.

You want, then, as your first requisite, *a love for the work*, as work, and not merely as a means of gaining a livelihood. You must not be content

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