

side of B nearest the negative pole (F) the ordinary bluestarch-iodine reaction will be clearly seen, at first only in the region of the septum, but later in lines of colour from that to the electrode F.
(To be continued.)

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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.
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(Continued from page 142.)

YOU will be taught Nursing in all its details here, but don't learn your work as a parrot learns talking. Learn to obey instructions intelligently. In many trying cases you will show your efficiency best by knowing when *not* to do certain things which would come in the ordinary routine, and which you have not been told *not* to do.

When found fault with in a proper manner, don't make excuses unless you have very valid ones. Accept the rebuke, mild or severe, and let it teach you the lesson it is intended to teach.

From the moment you begin your work, you will be brought into contact with certain persons, and it may be as well to point out what are your duties towards such persons.

(a.) *Your duty to the Doctor.*—He is your principal superior officer, and you must, in the first place, be *strictly obedient to his orders*. You have also to report to him the condition of the patient during the past, and to take his instructions for the future. And in reporting to him as to the condition of the patient, be sure to confine yourselves to *facts*, and let the facts be stated as plainly as possible. For example, it is no use to say the patient is better or is worse: that is an opinion and may not be a fact. It will be told you, hereafter, *what* you have to observe and report; for the present, all I wish to impress upon you is the importance of observing and watching the patient, and noting changes in his or her condition, and such other points as it may be necessary for the Doctor to know. An intelligent, efficient Nurse may show her superiority over one of an opposite character more in this respect than in any other; and she may be sure her intelligence will be duly appreciated.

"Obey every order implicitly. There is a great difference between intelligent and stupid obedience, and it is the former which is required. A stupid Nurse will go on doggedly, without watching for symptoms; an intelligent one will watch

carefully for signs of any change. Such signs she will instantly report to the Doctor, without for a moment deviating from the orders given. He will decide whether they necessitate any change of treatment. Nurses are inclined sometimes to judge for themselves, or to *think* the Doctor meant this or that. The best Nurse is always the most obedient, because she remembers she is only a Nurse, not a Doctor."

"A word to every Nurse on the importance of clearly understanding the line between what is strictly *her* duty, and that of the Doctor. A good, intelligent, *obedient* Nurse will always gain the confidence of the Medical man; but if for one moment she presumes on that confidence to interfere with things beyond the line, she will lose it. At the same time she will often find, if she shows herself worthy, she will be asked and trusted to do things which are not exactly within her province, and there are many ways in which the Nurse can be of the greatest service, particularly to the young Medical men in Hospitals, who are often hard pressed by a number of very severe cases under their charge at the same time. Perhaps an instance will better explain my meaning. After an operation, or an accident, it is no uncommon thing for the patient to experience some difficulty in passing water. It is strictly the surgeon's duty to attend to this, but a harassed, over-tired House-surgeon will often thank a Nurse, whom he knows is fully aware her duty is to obey, and always fulfils that duty, for a hint on this subject, if she thinks the patient has been too long without relief, or has only passed an insufficient quantity. The utmost unity of purpose ought to exist between a Nurse and a Doctor, or the patient must be the sufferer, as the most skilful Medical treatment will often be rendered useless by the disobedience or stupidity of a Nurse; and it is no exaggeration to say that many a life has been lost through these faults. Surely the consideration of these facts should make all women, who intend to be Nurses, both anxious and willing to learn everything that can conduce to the comfort and well-being of their patients."*

(b.) There are *your duties to the patient*. These duties will be explained to you in detail as we go on with our instruction, but I may say now that in carrying out these duties you must use the utmost gentleness and modesty, and in dealing with patients of very varied character, you may be called upon to show a great deal of *tact* in order to be successful in carrying out your instructions without producing a bad impression on the patient. This is important. Of course, now and then you will meet with patients who

* Miss Veitch: Handbook of Nurses for the Sick.

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