

Making—Changing Sheets—Lifting Helpless Patients—Poultices—Fomentations—Blisters—Ointments—Splints, &c.—Modes of Administering Food, Medicines and Stimulants—Nursing Requisites.

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A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"My attention was recently called to a paragraph, which has made most decent Nurses follow your example, and send it to Coventry. It stated that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been writing another paper on Nursing. After considerable trouble I found this was published in the March number of the *Parent's Review*, published by W. H. Allen and Co., of Waterloo Place, London, price sixpence, and I am sure if you would mention it in your widely read Journal many old Bart.'s Pros. and Nurses would be glad to know of it."

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I HAVE myself obtained a copy of the Review, and advise my readers to do likewise, and thank our contemporary for drawing attention to the matter. It is needless to say that the statements made by our contemporary are simply untrue. Mrs. Fenwick does *not* give a list of training schools; she only mentions a few. She does *not* exclude from those few every Hospital which signed against Registration. Out of the seven London Hospitals which she names, three were represented on that ridiculous protest. Nurses know how much Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has done, and is doing, for them, and they will only support her all the more when they see the manner in which she is attacked in consequence of her most successful efforts on their behalf.

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It is unnecessary to say that the article is written in a vigorous literary style, for which the authoress is known. Mrs. Fenwick's description of the present position of Nursing is typically clear.

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"FROM the very earliest times the occupation of the Nurse has been recognised as honourable, humane, and above all feminine, because to tend the sick and the wounded and to soothe the suffering, has ever been and must always be pre-eminently women's work. So it is no less strange than true that it is only within the last forty years that it has been admitted that Nursing is, or should be, a skilled calling, demanding from those who would follow it a lengthened course of careful training and special education, as an essential preliminary to the right understanding of the duties which the care of the sick involves, and to the best performance of these duties, and of the orders given by the doctor, in any and every case of illness.

"THERE are many explanations given for this late development of the scientific side of Nursing, but it is probably largely due to the fact that, from various social and economic causes, a constantly increasing number of educated gentlewomen have been led in late years to adopt the calling as a definite life work. And this, either to earn their bread by services more congenial than those of teaching, to escape a life of *ennui* or empty idleness at home, or perchance in the hope of doing some little good for humanity in their day and generation. Whatever be the cause, the fact is undoubted that there are now few families amongst the upper and middle classes which do not count one or more Nurses amongst their number. And this influx of educated women into the work will by itself explain the rapid improvement which has taken place in the status, the training, and therefore the usefulness of Nurses, and the increased estimation in which they are now held by the public at large.

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"AT present, however, the very popularity of the work, and the increased confidence which Doctors place in Nurses, is, although it may seem paradoxical to say so, doing undoubted harm to the cause. Because in this delightfully free country of ours, where it requires almost a revolution to make the Government take any fresh step in governing, any woman, however destitute she may be of knowledge, or of character, or of both, can, without let or hindrance, term herself a Trained Nurse, can obtain employment in that capacity, and can, as may be easily understood, by her ignorance cause great suffering, if not danger, to the sick before her incapacity is discovered. It is well known that there are now hundreds of such women at work in our midst, and unless some check can be placed upon them, it is a moral certainty that the greater demand there is for the services of Trained Nurses, the larger will be the number of these untrained women who will offer themselves to supply the need. Happily, however, there has now been commenced a system of Registration of Trained Nurses, which will, it is hoped, in time afford the public the means of discerning with ease and certainty whether any given woman is qualified to attend upon the sick efficiently or not. The same system has been enforced by law for medical men, for lawyers, and others, for many years, with complete success in differentiating the true professional man from the quack; and there is no reason to doubt that similar success will be obtained in the case of Nurses."

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MRS. FENWICK'S summary of the calling is full of truth and eloquence:—"Generally, it may be said

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