

science, and a tinge of theology, quietly swallow the insults which it continually casts upon their calling, and therefore upon themselves. We seek, and we have succeeded far beyond our expectations in securing, a circle of readers who are capable of thinking, and who desire the advancement of their vocation for its own credit's sake as well as their own. So we have frequently pointed out, from a historical retrospect of analogous cases, the probable future development of this, that, or the other Nursing problem. For example, we deduced some months ago from the history of medical and of legal education a scheme of Nursing training, which, therefore, seemed likely to be instituted sooner rather than later in the United Kingdom. We know that the picture we drew gave food for thought to many; and though some told us that we were too ambitious, we have only this week heard that a Training School for Nurses in America has adopted precisely the curriculum which history shadowed forth as probable of adoption in the future in the old country. This question of specialism in Nursing is debated for a precisely similar reason—to stimulate, in however small a measure, that careful thought which gives birth to intelligent action. We have pointed out how the stress of modern life has compelled Doctors to be specialists; and arguing from this, and the ever increasing pressure of competition in the Nursing ranks, we infer that it is only a question of time, when, to some extent at least, Private Nurses must be specialists if they are to have a chance of earning a livelihood by their work.

Is it probable, therefore, that there will be instituted a distinct class of specialist Nurses for children's diseases or not? We feel, as we said before, that there will be much difference of opinion on this matter; but we believe from an impartial consideration that the probabilities are greatly in favour of a nursing speciality being formed for this branch, and this not only in practice, but in training also. We cordially endorse the arguments which Miss Wood has advanced for the special training necessary to make a good Nurse for children; but we would go even further, and say something more than mere education is necessary. In fact we believe that a good children's Nurse is like a poet—born, not made. Everyone with any experience at all of a general Hospital has known Nurses who did their work admirably in the Medical or in the Surgical Wards, but who were the most complete failures when transferred to the children's block. An indefinable "something" which most women possess in the handling of young children, but which is just as conspicuously lacking in others, and which can only be discovered by practical

experience, is perhaps the first and greatest qualification for a sick child's attendant. Children in health recognise, apparently by intuition, the presence or absence of this indescribable quality; in illness they are more sensitive to it. To choose a Nurse, however estimable in knowledge or character, "who does not get on with children" to tend them in sickness, is to court failure and perchance disaster. From which it follows that some Nurses can never be specialists for such cases. Then, on the other hand, this faculty of management is abnormally possessed by, or developed in, other women, and such are almost marked out by nature for this special branch of the calling. Every Matron has met such workers—women who perhaps did passably well in the general Wards, but suddenly found their vocation when given some children to care for and "fuss over." The welfare of the sick is the first article of the Nursing creed, and we have no hesitation in saying that it would be for the benefit of invalid children that their attendants should be thus devoted and congenial to their charges.

Then arises the question of training. Should this be special, or general, or both? The two are bound up together, because the embryo man suffers from nearly every disease, and is liable to nearly every accident, which may overtake the adult. On the other hand the Nursing of adults teaches little or nothing of the special knowledge necessary for the care of sick children. What, then, to our minds would follow the establishment of the Nursing of children as a distinct speciality would be the development of the Hospitals for children throughout the kingdom into special training schools for Nurses. With systematic lectures and a lengthened course the little patients in these Institutions would be none the worse attended to, a considerable saving in the working expenses would be effected, some of the pressure of candidates would be taken off the General Hospitals, and a large number of women might each year be certificated, and sent out to work in private houses throughout the kingdom, specially instructed, specially adapted, to act as Nursing specialists in children's cases.

IF the spring puts forth no blossoms, in summer there will be no beauty, and in autumn no fruit. So, if youth be trifled away without improvement, riper years will be contemptible and old age miserable.

WHEN a thing is beyond repair, waste no useless regrets over it and do no idle fretting. Strive for that serenity of spirit that will enable you to make the best of all things. That means contentment in its best sense.

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