

caretakers of little children. The girls who are admitted must not be under eighteen. They enter for one month on trial, and if approved they remain five months longer, and receive a diploma and aid in securing a situation. The young women live at the Babies' Hospital, their board and washing being secured to them, and in addition a salary of seven dollars a month being allowed for the cost of the uniform, and for pocket-money, car fares, and other minor expenses. Attired in the neat uniform—a gingham dress, white cap, and apron—the child's Nurse enters upon her duties under the direction of the Head Nurse of the Hospital, who is the instructress for the Training School. The babies of the Institution are cared for to a certain extent by the Students in the training course, and with intelligence and hearty interest in her work a girl is expected to learn all that is necessary for a child's Nurse to know in her six months' life at the Hospital. The Student is taught the proper ways of bathing a baby, however delicate; the care after its bath; the preparation of the food; the manner of feeding; methods of training a baby in regular and healthful habits of sleeping, eating, and the like; gentle massage for strengthening weak muscles; the use of the thermometer in testing temperature; the use of hot water for relief of colics and other minor ailments; careful dressing, and arranging of the clothing; the ventilation and cleaning of nurseries; soothing treatment of nervous, sickly babies; amusement and care of convalescing children; and, last but not least, the careful use of baby carriages. Especial pains are taken with the instruction in preparing food. Each Student serves in the diet kitchen a week at a time. The graduates expect to command higher wages than untrained Nurses, twenty dols. a month being the sum fixed by the conductors of the school."

I HAVE been compelled to leave several matters over this week on account of pressure upon my space.

S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

FEATHER MAKERS.

FEATHERS are certainly born, not made, as the poor tailless ostrich would tell you. Yet there is a regular business of feather making, or rather working, and therein many young people are engaged. It is fascinating work, needing delicate light fingers for the accomplishment of the most dainty parts, and especially for the finishing stroke, but, alas! like everything else now, the pay is disproportionate to the long hours and

thought required. It is also fluctuating, for in the winter, the quiet season in the feather trade, hands are seldom kept on longer than for the half day, and many are dismissed to face the winter's cold, out of work and penniless, for the summer's wage is not high enough to enable them to save much. The feather making goes through a transient stage, from the time it is taken from the poor ostrich's back, till it ultimately adorns the head or dress of some fashionable lady. First, it is transported over the billowy wave (no fear of its being sea-sick); next it is cleaned, washed, dyed, all these processes being performed by men; and then it passes into the hands of the gentler sex. It is prepared for further reforms by being rubbed with glasses to mow down any rough pieces, then the sewers do their part, for it is only in very exceptional cases that a feather is only one single one; that sounds an Irishism. Then follow the curlers, who, with an instrument resembling a blunt knife, give to the ends the graceful curl so much admired, but against which the unkind rain rages war often so successfully. Lastly, the much-handled feather is passed to the finishers, who touch it up and arrange the centre, hiding the stem—I can think of no better word—of the feather. There are two kinds of finishing, the French and the English. The former, a loose, fluffy curl, is, to my mind, much the most preferable. The English is stiffer, and looks as if feather trimming had been sewn on to the centre of the feather. The apprenticeship is usually for two years; no premium is asked, but the girls receive only from two shillings and sixpence to four shillings and sixpence a week. On being out of her time, the feather maker, now an *artiste* in her trade, can obtain, when work is not slack, from nine shillings to twelve shillings per week; some even have been known to earn fifteen shillings, but such is a rare case. Most girls during their apprenticeship learn the whole business, passing from being lowly preparers up to finishers. Sixpence an hour is paid the latter for overtime. Mounting feathers for fans is part of the feather business, most of which is done by the girls on the premises and not at home. The rules in large houses are very strict—a minute after nine, and you are shut out for the half day, &c. A great many of the feathers are not ostrich at all; all is not gold that glitters, you know. The real ostrich plume still fetches its price. The other and commoner sorts are called in trade parlance respectively extract, brooth, cape, &c. Feathers are in vogue again, and at present the trade is very brisk, though there is a great deal of foreign manufactured work imported. Little think the *grandes dames* how greatly their freaks and

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