

ciated his views with regard to Nurses and their qualifications, or of the great value he attaches to the office and to the duties of the office, or to the soundness of the conclusions at which he has arrived with regard to them. They are full of fine sense.

With a lucidity fully proportionate to the necessity for clear statement in relation to a question that is great and grand, the reviewer of "Recollections of a Nurse" has treated his subject with a clearness of exposition and with the happy art of making one see with his eyes, and of becoming imbued with his impressions. The profession of a Nurse of the sick and afflicted being of itself essentially noble, the reviewer reveals himself in possession of all the essential qualities inherent in the art of criticism, and with having a fluent and incisive pen excellently adapted to deal with matters of current general interest of an important nature. There is a vivid masterful insight into the character not only of the subject treated of, but into all the conditions of its development. The importance attached by the reviewer with such especial skill and ability to the qualifications essential to being a good Nurse will, doubtless, have the effect of discouraging irresponsible persons who may unhappily arrogate to themselves the fullest competency to undertake the discharge of the onerous duties of an office for which they are not only unsuited, but as unfit as the round peg is unfit to fill the square hole, and who have not, moreover, been genuinely accredited for the occupation of a position which requires the possession on the part of those who would aspire to fill it of the greatest human qualities, qualities of the very primest importance.

It was the good fortune of the writer to find himself, being a patient, in care of a Nurse whose qualifications for encountering a heritage of responsibility in his regard are of a high order. The exactness with which the directions and guidance of the highest Medical skill of which he had the advantage, and the care with which her best efforts were directed to the ministration of those offices for the mitigation of suffering, and for the general well-being of her patient—qualifications evidently of not recent growth, but which have long been in active existence—distinguish her as being in the van of excellence and of premier rank as a professional Nurse. Here the writer desires to point out that, in his opinion, it is the patient, and the patient only, who can correctly estimate the value and capabilities of a Nurse in the discharge of her duties as a Nurse—the performance of which may be carried, when in judicious and intelligent hands, to a height of success and a pitch of perfection such as the writer has experienced in his own case

Nurse Blank has had the writer under her care during an illness, at one period critical and severe, now approaching three years, and continues to discharge the same office with unflagging attention. Aware that the writer was averse from having even a temporary change of Nurse, as will be the case with some patients when well cared for, Nurse Blank, of generous and unselfish mould, practically sacrificed her holiday on two successive years, taking a few days only on each occasion, on his account, instead of the usual three weeks to which she was entitled. Not until the present year, and then only at the request of the writer, would Nurse Blank consent to take her full holiday of three weeks, and give herself the rest and change of which she was in need after her unusually long attendance upon her patient, during which no task was ever shirked in the performance of her duties—duties ever done with admirable thoroughness. A striking gauge herein of individual worth.

This communication is opportune for the purpose of adding a word with regard to patients, and their obligations as patients, for however demoralised they may be by sickness until the very worst sides only of their characters are seen by their Nurses, still, though labouring under this common infirmity, something may not unreasonably be expected from them in return for the sweet patience with the impatient and the gentle tenderness with the untender of which they are the recipients at the hands of those good women to whose profession their life is a devotion.

The most painful part of bodily pain is that which is bodiless, or immaterial, namely, the fierce impatience of sufferers under the delusion that pain will last for ever.

But in the exercise of the fine quality of patience invalids have a resource which will enable them to see pain and suffering in their proper figure, and

"To count each affliction, whether light or grave,
God's messenger sent down to them."

Commenting on these words, a thoughtful writer says, in effect, "that the message is to be formally and reverently received, not because it is a blessing in disguise, though that it ought to be, for blessings may appear under the shape of sickness, frustrated plans, and disappointed efforts, but that it may come with a solemn mission, to welcome it as far as we can—of course welcome does not mean affecting gladness, or affecting anything unreal—to recognise it as something from above, not from beneath, which has to be taken to heart, and not evaded."

"May not the little cup of suffering be
A loving one of blessing given to thee?"

Suffering may be joy misunderstood. The great secret of bearing severe suffering well is to

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