

in the Highland Division are to be approached with the view of joining the committee, including the wives of the Lord-Lieutenants and other ladies interested in the Territorial Force and in nursing generally.

### "I Learn to Succour Others."

I have no time to write a letter this week, but only a few thoughts to send to all the nurses—whom I count as friends—who read the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*. One is a motto for nurses—"I learn to succour others." This motto was given to a number of nurses by a celebrated London doctor. "Don't talk of good cases," he said, "and don't speak of a patient as 'only a chronic case.' How would you like to be a 'chronic'?" Why, the less hope of recovery there is for your patient, the more tender and cheerful must you be to make his life at least bearable, and to help him to be brave. Your work as nurses is 'To comfort and relieve all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate,' and to pray that God will give them 'patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.' "

Mr. F. B. Meyer, in an address to nurses in a hospital in Mount Lebanon, once said: "As a clergyman's voice has to be used for Christ, so a nurse must feel in dealing with the sick, her hands are to be used for Him." "You nurses are the hands of Christ," he said, "let this thought hallow your work, and comfort you when sometimes the things you have to do would otherwise seem repulsive and impossible to you."

What privileged women we nurses are! That we work hard no one will deny; that we give up much from a worldly and social point of view all will agree; but who would give up the hard work when one remembers the joy that comes to us in alleviating the sufferings of others, and the loving gratitude that is showered upon us for doing what is just a real pleasure? The woman who forgets herself has little time to complain of her lot whatever it may be.

Was it Thackeray who said "Three things are essential in a woman: Love from her heart, sweetness from her lips, work from her hands."

This is really worth remembering.

SISTER MARIE.

### Women's Work as Members of Hospital Boards.\*

BY MISS ELIZABETH S. HALDANE, LL.D.

(Concluded from page 339.)

I have endeavoured to discover in how far the movement for appointing women to hospital boards has progressed in the various countries. In reply to enquiries, I had a most interesting letter from one who bears an honoured name in the nursing world in Germany—Sister Agnes Karll, of the Red Cross Organisation—who tells me that German women are just beginning to fight for their places on hospital boards, but only in one town—the town of Rheydt—has the Mayor placed ladies on the board of the town hospital, and this was owing to the bad condition in which he found matters. These ladies procured a staff of Red Cross nurses and established a little training school in the English sense. This is said to be the only German hospital where the wheels run smoothly in the nursing staff, and where contentment reigns. Personally, the hours and arrangements for the nurses' comfort shocked me in visiting one of the best equipped new hospitals in Germany, and as there was no responsible matron at the head of the nursing staff, I can well believe the stories one hears of overwork and broken health. In Rheydt there are five patients to a nurse, but in most German hospitals there appears to be ten, and sometimes even twenty.

As regards the United States, women do frequently act on boards of hospitals. In Cleveland there is a lady on the board of the Lakeside Hospital who was once Superintendent of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she gave distinguished service, more especially in the organisation of that well-known training-school. In Illinois a laywoman for many years gave very efficient aid on the State Board of Charities, more especially concerning herself with the care of the insane. These boards are usually selected by the Governors of States, and women are sometimes nominated. But in the case of the ordinary hospital it is, I am told, seldom that women are appointed on the same footing as male members as is the case at the Bellevue Hospital, New York. Certainly, as far as my knowledge goes, it appears to be seldom so in New York. There is, however, an excellent training school in Chicago which supplies hospitals with nurses, and which is entirely managed by women.

As regards the Australasian States, I am informed that in New South Wales women have not so far taken part in the government of general hospitals. In the three women's hospitals as also the Children's Hospital, and a dispensary for the sick poor in Sydney, women are largely represented on the boards in conjunction with men. In Victoria the case is the same; the women's hospital there is managed principally by women, and the Children's Hospital entirely. The Victoria Hospital for women and children is entirely staffed and mainly

\* Read at the Conference, N.U.W.W., Aberdeen, 14th October, 1908.

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