

The position of a nurse is one of great responsibility, and candidates must be absolutely steady, reliable, strong, and hard-working, and with a genuine love of nursing. They must be not less than 23 years of age, and able to produce references from their last mistress, a doctor, and a clergyman or minister. Women with a natural love of sick-nursing, *who have been unable to afford the money, or time necessary for hospital training, may find here an entrance to a life full of interest, and in which conscientious work will lead to sure success and advancement.* A branch of the Association is now formed for Stradbroke and the district, and further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Ivy House, Stradbroke, Eye.

We print this letter (in which the italics are ours) as one more proof that a standard of nursing education defined and maintained by a Central Authority responsible to the State is urgently necessary for the public welfare. How is it possible that *skilled* nursing can be given to the poor by women who have had a short course of special training, and at once begin to earn good wages—or that these women when they have gained some experience at the expense of the poor should be qualified to undertake private cases at an increased salary? There is no Royal road to nursing, and it is most unfair both to patient, and would-be nurses to endeavour to persuade them that there is.

The Women's National Health Association of Ireland is full of life and spirit, and Dr. James Ashe, speaking in Dublin on "Some Observations on the Care and Management of Young Children," did not spare the careless mothers, a vast number of whom failed in the sacred obligation of feeding their own offspring and were not worthy of the glorious name of mother. Many children had no constitutions because the mother forgot her responsibilities to them in early life. The higher one went in the social scale the worse this evil got, and in certain lofty circles persons practically sneered at Nature's duties as vulgar. Down in the country districts, when he saw the poor women on the roadside doing their duty he felt like shaking their hands, for necessity, if not choice, had made them true Irishwomen.

Lectures in connection with a tuberculosis exhibition, tuberculosis nurses, milk depôts, babies' clubs, are all part of the tuberculosis crusade now going on in Ireland.

The Board of Trustees of the Toronto General Hospital have passed a resolution of congratulation, which has been forwarded to Miss Snively, as Superintendent of the Training School of which Miss M. Tweedie, who is referred to in the next column, is a graduate.

#### A HEROIC NURSE.

The Toronto General Hospital Training School for Nurses has cause for gratitude and congratulation in the safe return and heroic conduct of one of the members of its Alumnae, Miss M. Tweedie, Class of 1894, who was a passenger on the wrecked steamer "Republic."

In the account given in *The Globe*, of Toronto, we read the following:—"Among the incidents which have been related regarding the sinking of the "Republic" there is none more creditable than that in which Miss Tweedie, a nurse, graduate of the Toronto General Hospital Training School for Nurses, was the central figure.

"While the passengers of the "Republic" were standing on the captain's deck, with lifeboats ready to lower, Miss Tweedie asked and obtained permission to visit her state-room to secure life-preservers for the three members of Colonel Mason's family (one of whom was her patient) and also herself. Groping her way through the passages of the unfamiliar steamer, now in total darkness, she finally secured four lifebelts, but could only carry two of these up the narrow staircase which led to the captain's deck where all were assembled. Someone meantime had appropriated one of the belts she had left at the foot of the stair, thereby necessitating another trip down the dark passages and stairs in order to secure a lifebelt for herself. Later she heard of a poor Italian in the steerage, weeping bitterly, because he could secure no life-preserver. So, once more, although warned to make all possible haste, as the vessel was in great danger, Miss Tweedie descended into the darkness, and, finding the Italian, gave up her lifebelt to him."

At the regular meeting of the Alumnae Association, held at the Toronto General Hospital on the afternoon of February 3rd, Miss Tweedie gave a graphic account of the experiences she encountered from the time of the collision between the "Republic" and the "Florida" until they landed at New York.

At the close of Miss Tweedie's address, the President of the Association, Miss L. Bowerman, in a few brief remarks, called the attention of the Association to the fact that Miss Tweedie had said absolutely nothing about herself. Miss Bowerman then said that the Association had heard that Miss Tweedie had lost her Alumnae brooch on the ill-fated steamer, and therefore had commissioned her, on behalf of the Society, to present Miss Tweedie with a new one, which she was asked to accept as a slight token of their appreciation of her brave and self-sacrificing conduct.

M. A. SNIVELY.

*previous page*

*next page*