

A Dream.

I had been at the "King's Own" for a month, during which time I had done many things wrongly, and very few things correctly. No one had time to tell me how anything should be done, and this was the usual procedure when I ventured to make enquiries:—

"Nurse Carr; did you make this pad?"

"Yes, Sister."

"It is all wrong. I never saw such a thing in my life."

"Please, Sister, I should be so glad if you would tell me where it is wrong; then I should know better next time."

"Where it is wrong! Why, it is all wrong. You have a most remarkable talent for doing everything just as it should not be done. Get on with your work."

Or it was:—"Nurse Carr, did you change No. 10's fomentation?"

"Yes, Sister."

"I really don't know what good you are, nurse, you are enough to drive anyone wild. I should have thought a child could have put on a fomentation. Just look at the way you have done it!"

"I thought I had done it properly. I am sorry, Sister."

"What is the good of being sorry?" the exasperated and overworked Sister would remark; and so on all day.

One night I went to bed, weary and worn and sad as usual, and no sooner had I fallen asleep than someone touched me and said—

"Nurse, it is time to get up."

I got up, and in due course went on duty.

Very soon the usual thing happened.

"Oh, nurse, you are making that bed wrongly. Wait a moment and I will show you."

The latter part of that remark was not usual, and I stared in blank astonishment. I was more astonished when the senior Sister showed me how to make the bed, and told me the why and wherefore of it.

When beds were finished I began my washings. No. 1 was a heavy, helpless case, and I had always struggled alone. This morning the senior nurse came, showed me how to turn a patient without giving unnecessary pain, stood by while I finished the washing, and gave me many little hints for which I was very grateful. I had hard work to keep back my tears, she was so kind, and I had not been used to kindness of late. When the senior nurse moved away my patient said:

"Wot's come to her? She's allus bullied you before, and now you're her pet lamb!"

I did not know what had come to her, and did not care; I only hoped it would last, but that seemed impossible—too good to be true. I felt so happy that I could move about quickly without knocking things over; in fact I had not knocked against anything for quite a long time. Then she came again and showed me how to brush long hair without pulling it, and how and where to plait it so that it would be comfortable, and that patient smiled and said "Thank you," instead of the usual "Thank goodness, that's done!"

Then I was shown how to take temperatures. I had been told to take a temperature a week before, but I was nervous and broke the thermometer in shaking down the mercury, for which I was well scolded and allowed to buy another thermometer, but not allowed to take another temperature.

At 10 a.m. I was told to go off duty and to be sure to go out, as there was to be a lecture in the afternoon. "A little fresh air will do you good, and you will enjoy the lecture more." Dear me! Fancy anyone wanting me to enjoy anything. Moreover, when I had gone to a lecture before it had been in my off duty time. Now I was to go out as well as attend a lecture. Surely the skies would fall.

The wonderful day went on, and I was encouraged to ask questions, told to take my time and not hurry, for "you see, Nurse, if you hurry so much you cannot take an intelligent interest in what you are doing," and I had so often been scolded for being slow. Sister prepared a fomentation herself and showed me how to put it on. Of course it was simple enough. I cannot think why I had not thought of doing it that way myself. It was the ward-maid who had told me how to do it before.

As I was going off duty at the end of that glorious day, Sister said, "Nurse, if there is anything you don't understand, or of which you are not quite sure, ask me, or if I am not on duty ask the Staff Nurse. Don't guess at things, and never think you are giving us trouble. You came here to learn to be a nurse, and it is our duty to teach you, and the more you learn the better for the patients and for all concerned. Now good-night. Sleep well."

In a dazed condition I went to my room, where I found Nurse McBride awaiting me.

"Well, Carr, my dear old blunderer, you look as though you were in Heaven, and had not got used to the change. What has happened? Is it a fortune you've had left you, or has Sister praised you for doing something properly by accident?"

"Bridie," said I, "what has happened? They all want to teach me, and nobody ever

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