

medicine in the last thirty years was that it had left the medical student very little time to acquire the practical elements of his work. When she was a probationer, and also a Sister, many of the young members of the medical staff took part in nursing the patients. It was a doctor, and not a Sister, who taught her many of the practical parts of her work. Now there seemed to be a great gap in the training of medical students, yet doctors ought to be taught, and to understand, the elements of nursing, because, as private practitioners, they would have to supervise, and be responsible for, the nurse's work. As the doctor must have someone to help him who could understand the scientific principles underlying his directions, it was absolutely necessary that the theoretical education of the nurse should be much more thorough. Whilst the pupil nurse needed instruction in elementary anatomy, physiology, hygiene, sanitation, dietetics, therapeutics, and bacteriology, the medical student should be taught the elements of practical nursing. Both could then start fair in private practice. In the medical world etiquette was well defined, but there was no code of ethics regulating the etiquette between the two professions; everything depended upon the personality of the doctor and the nurse who were working together. A doctor might be most considerate, kind, and sympathetic with a nurse, or he might be quite the reverse.

The nursing profession needed a code of ethics, and the organisation of the nursing profession should be on much the same lines as that of the medical profession. Nurses should be taught from the moment they entered a hospital that they had a responsibility to the profession as a whole, and not merely to one patient or one hospital. It did not matter whether they stayed in hospital or went elsewhere, their relations to the medical profession should be regulated by definite rules. A medical man would not consult with a quack. But a large number of medical men thought nothing of engaging nursing quacks, and moreover they thought nothing of requiring trained nurses to work with these on terms of equality. For instance, a certificated, three years' trained nurse might be engaged for a case, but it did not follow that the second nurse employed would be properly qualified also. As there was no accepted standard for a trained nurse in this country the well-trained had no redress.

There were relative obligations incumbent on the professions of nursing and medicine, and the advice of the philosopher, quoted by Dr. Sevestre, "what you do not like yourself, do not do to others," was sound. She thought, therefore, that the medical profession, which considered it just to the public to refuse to co-operate with quacks in their own profession, should do more than they had done in the past to protect nurses from having to work with semi-trained and inefficient women on terms of equality.

Unfortunately there were still quite a number of medical men who did not recognise that there was a profession of nursing; they were most kind, courteous, and considerate, but to them the pro-

fession, as a profession, did not exist, and they had no desire that it should do so. The Chairman of the London Hospital, in giving evidence before a Select Committee of the House of Commons, substantiated his unreasonable opposition to the organisation of the profession of nursing by stating that when the King of this country was ill he was not nursed by one who had fulfilled the full complement of three years' training. Apparently it did not appeal to him that the King was thus nursed by a woman who had not received what most English hospitals consider a necessary term of training.

Mrs. Fenwick claimed that the relations between the medical profession and the nursing profession could never be thoroughly satisfactory until nursing, like medicine, was legalised by the State, and their official and ethical relations defined.

Mrs. HAMPTON ROBB said that exactly the same thing had happened in connection with the illness of the late President McKinley, as Mrs. Bedford Fenwick had described. The nurse who attended him had never had a general training, but had only been in a gynaecological hospital.

Miss L. L. DOOK said she wished to speak upon a point which was rather difficult to touch upon, perhaps because it was a criticism of the medical profession. She was becoming convinced that, in America at least, they would soon have to appeal as an organised body of women, to the highest medical body in the land to consider whether it was not time for them to establish an ethical provision in their code in regard to the professional right of medical men to have financial, commercial, and mercenary interests in nurses' training, which effectually prevented them from looking upon the education of the nurse from a high plane. She believed it was not the case in England for doctors to have such an interest in nurses, and also that in Australia it was not considered ethical for physicians to traffic in the work of nurses. But in Germany they also had this difficulty, and as the nurses of each nation would individually rather hesitate to put themselves on record as criticising the behaviour of their own physicians it would be left to this international body to ask those doctors to desist from the practice on the grounds of its being unprofessional and unethical.

In America it was quite common for physicians to establish what were called training schools in their own private hospitals, run as their private property, for the reason that they could thus get a better grade of woman on more advantageous terms to themselves. They frequently added to this ethical sin by sending these nurses to private duty before they were fully trained, putting them on special cases, and taking their fees, and then, in two years or so, sending them out from the hospital with a diploma given on their own individual initiative. They were sent out thus quite regardless of their own future fate as workers, or the future fate of the people they are to take care of. In America it had been the hardest trouble in the organisation of the nursing profession, and she could assure any medical man present that it had been the greatest trial of American nurses to enter into an armed conflict with the men they would wish only to respect.

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