

bedsides had long impressed the need and importance of nursing on her thoughts. Now, what she heard and saw at Kaiserswerth made her most desirous of beginning something of the kind at home.

"In 1840, an Institute of Nursing was established in Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate, and the pupil nurses were first called "Protestant Sisters of Charity." The name gave rise to suspicion and sectarian prejudice, and was later changed to that of 'Nursing Sisters.' The nurses were domiciled in the Home, where, on the plan of Kaiserswerth, they were carefully supervised and mothered.

"Their hospital training was received at Guy's Hospital, and was of the sort which has characterised the beginnings of the training in nursing in almost every country, namely, what one might call hospital visiting, for these pupils had no organic relation to the hospital. . . . The Sisters were most carefully chosen, and we may well believe that they made up in earnestness for the desultory character of their training. They were prepared only as attendants for private nursing, and made little, if any, impression in hospital work."

Elizabeth Fry did not live long enough to see more than the beginning of her nursing reformation—she died in 1845. The Devonshire Square Institute still continues its good work, and both at the London Hospital, and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in the years 1879 to 1881, I came in touch with its Sisters, an interesting link with its great founder.

Elizabeth Fry—prisons—nursing. How co-ordinate them?

Why cannot we associate ourselves, and dedicate to her memory some definite scheme, whereby our skill can benefit "those in prison" as in her fine philosophy she would have so applied it?

Poverty and sickness—Poverty and crime. There they are bracketted together—and almost ineluctable. Less gruesome and less fearsome than in the past, but still sufficiently apparent in our midst to mock our civilisation.

How about the remedy? Practical education—congenial work, and relaxation!

Cannot we trained nurses justly claim to be an active factor in the process of civilisation, in sick wards, in schools, poor homes, and factories? Why not in prison cells, when trained for the special needs of those suffering through physical degeneration from every phase of moral obliquity?

Here we have marvellous scope for the most intelligent healer. The criminal mind is a perverted intelligence. Only the higher moral forces can focus its wandering rays of light.

Have we in our prisons such a staff of

healers, men and women of intuitive perception, trained and expert in the handling of body, mind, and spirit?

*We have them not.*

What a limitless sphere of influence for reformation opens out before the consciousness of those inspired to train for labour in this new mission field! Elizabeth Fry said: "Never should prison officers be chosen because the situation is suited to their wants, but because they are suited to fill the situation."

The work which still needs doing after this silence of sixty years is that these officers should be "suited to fill the situation."

That is the work I want the Elizabeth Fry League to initiate and in time accomplish.

In this connection can we not hear the echo of her last words to those working with her for prison reform?

"My much loved friends, amidst many sorrows that have been permitted for me to pass through, and much bodily suffering, I still feel a deep and lively interest in the cause of poor prisoners; and earnest is my prayer that the God of all grace may be very near to help you to be steadfast in the important Christian work of seeking to win the poor wanderers to return, repent, and live."

Writes her biographer: "In a quiet grave at Barking, by the side of the little child whom she had loved and lost, years before, rest Elizabeth Fry's mortal remains. 'God buries His workers, but carries on His work.' The peculiar work which made her name and life so famous has grown and ripened right up to the present hour. In this, her name liveth for evermore."

The sweet savour of it invokes a blessing on further effort. ETHEL G. FENWICK.

#### THE HEMEL HEMPSTEAD CASE.

In a somewhat ambiguous letter addressed to the Workhouse Nursing Association, and sent to the Hemel Hempstead Guardians, for their information, the Local Government Board refer to the following rule, based on a general minute made by them, and hung up in the bathrooms at the Hemel Hempstead Infirmary:—

"That in the bathing of the sick, whether for treatment or for cleansing, a nurse should always be present to see that the directions of the medical officer are carefully observed as to time, temperature, etc."

Is it possible that the Local Government Board mean to direct that a nurse shall always be present while a male patient is being bathed by a porter? If so, the sooner the rule is altered to one which provides for the bathing of male patients by trained male attendants the better.

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