

woman can make an adequate living out of her brains, her heart, and her work, she is not always going to give everything away, and we have got to make it understood in the future that once a nurse is certificated, trained, and registered, then there is a large field of work beyond the Institution work, and that it is the nurse that is most suitable to the public who is going to make the best practice. You know in medicine personality goes for a tremendous amount; it is not the man who has the best opportunity, or the best education, or the best chances, it is the best all-round man in medicine and surgery who commands the confidence of the public and the largest banking account. I do not want for a moment to have it understood that I am advocating any mercenary spirit in nurses, but I do say this, if you give the whole of your life to such high work as nursing should be, that you should be relieved from that very constant economical question as to whether or no you have enough to live upon. I do not think it is possible for a woman or a man to give the best that is in them if they are always thinking whether the pot is going to boil or not. I look forward to the time when we shall estimate nursing in this country as they do in the States. As regards private nursing they look upon it as the Practice of nursing, and you succeed or you do not succeed, not so much on your training, but the success of the private nurse depends upon her own personality.

Miss LAMONT: I think Ireland would never have been heard of in the profession except for Mrs. Kildare Treacy. So much has been said to-day about an ideal that a nurse should attain to that I feel very much like the little bantam must have felt after he had laid an egg, when the little girl came out with a letter she had written and placed it in the nest stating, "You have done very well," and then setting an ostrich egg in front of the bantam, "but this is what you must aspire to. If at first you don't succeed; try, try, try again." Many people have thought they would like to take up the profession of nurse and have gone through many years of training; and then have been very hurt to discover afterwards that they have not all those wonderful qualifications which go to make up a nurse. I represent really only the maternity side of nursing. Still, a maternity nurse may say to herself that every time she is called in to work she has two lives in her hands, and the new life, of course, is a very important life; and it is really extraordinary how many hints one has to give wives in this connection. A short time ago I saw two quite respectable young people, who were going through some tunnels, and each time, owing to fright, the babies had convulsions. But still, to make other people do what is right is very hard indeed. There is another thing: we have so very few years of service. As soon as we get elderly we get shelved, and we also get a little crotchety and peculiar when we get elderly. If nurses could look forward when they get older to some work, some work they could do, say, to mind little children or infants, if they could in any way start houses for themselves. You will find, however old and worn

you are, it is very easy to keep the love of little children with the kindnesses—and firmness—which they appreciate. Elderly nurses should be drafted into homes for children; I think that would be a very good thing. Nowadays, with fever and other diseases being stamped out, their calling is likely to be done away with altogether unless the motorists and aeroplanists come to our aid and provide us with some more cases.

Miss Blomfield: Miss Kent and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick have said so much about the necessary qualifications for a nurse, and also so much about the adaptability, but this last is what I want to impress upon every private nurse. It is by our adaptability we are judged; and it is often the want of our adaptability in China that makes the Chinese armour preferred to the trained nurse. It is how we are able to adapt ourselves to the different patients of different nationalities that we are judged there. It is better to cook meals and so on for the patients, in fact do anything in an emergency, than any other thing sometimes.

Miss SCHERTENBECK (Dutch District Nurse in London): I just want to say a few words. I should like to see nurses worked by the State and paid salaries by the State, and in that way each person may claim equal rights of assistance at any time. There are so many persons who cannot afford the required fees, but who could pay something towards the nursing, but not all. If a fund could be raised that the rich people could pay something towards it, and the others a little less, everyone could then have the required help. I should also like every nurse to have proper domestic training, which would make her work much easier.

Fraulein Karll, Madame Salvador, Miss Musson, Miss Grafton, and Miss Tamm also took part in the discussion, which was brought to a close with a few words from the President, and a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, and Mr. D'Arcy Power.

SCHOOL NURSING.

At the opening of the School Nursing Section, Miss Pearse, who presided, had to express great regret that Dr. Kerr was unable to be present and speak of the work of the school nurses from the beginning. She said as the time was very short she would at once call upon Mme. Jacques to read the paper which she was going to read for M. André Mesureur, speaking of the beginning made in Paris of placing nurses to work in the schools.

Dr. Ley, from Belgium, then said that he had been working as a school doctor for some years, and often felt the great need of an intelligent nurse to help him in his work. He considered that the nurse would not only prevent a great waste of the medical man's time, but would also be better able to get at the parents and impress them with the importance of carrying out the doctor's instructions without delay. For his part, he hoped it would not be long before they had school nurses regularly at work in Belgium.

Dr. ROSE gave a very interesting account of the open-air schools, and enlarged considerably on the

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