

tact could be brought about between all of them; that the prosperous man expected you to call his attention to and advise him what to do for the unfortunate man; that you were at liberty and expected to call in every home, and that your personal acquaintance with each one of this population was greater than that of any other one individual. This is about what is offered to the Factory Nurse.

"The wage earner is spending three-fourths of his working time at the factory, and those dependent upon him are members of one great co-operative community. Your Factory Nurse does not confine herself to one district or specialise in a particular kind of work, and in giving relief she has the resources of the whole community back of her. The expense of furnishings and supplies for her dispensary is such a small item in the general fund that they need not be considered. She has a large variety of positions for men out of work, and it is in her power to create a general feeling of co-operation between workman and foreman."

A History of Nursing.

Miss L. L. Dock is now at work on the third volume of "A History of Nursing." It is to deal with the more important developments in the field of nurses' work from 1873 to 1910, and will be compiled by the members of the International Council of Nurses, and sold for the benefit of the International treasury, and will be edited by Miss L. L. Dock, the Hon. Secretary.

As strictly impartial history is not easily written of those who are still living and exercising the influence of their personality, this volume is presented rather as a set of chronicles than as a history in the academic sense, though it may claim the dignity of absolute accuracy of historical data and statement of facts, so far as its limits reach.

It is believed that, while its immediate interest and value may be largely confined within the membership of the profession of which it treats, it may also be not without significance as a partial record contributory to the larger subject of the social and economic changes in the status of women. The modern work of nursing in its whole extent is not only one of the fruits of the "woman's movement," but a very remarkable and picturesque part—an integral part—of that movement, despite the very general absence of "class-consciousness" discernible in the women who, absorbed as they are in the immediate fulfilment of their most practical and pressing duties, and strikingly free from self-consciousness, have been pressing towards each opening in their special work, and have wrought the manifold details of professional progress that characterise modern nursing as compared with its earlier forms.

From that point of view that shows the work of the nurse of the last four decades in its relation to the larger theme of an era in human emancipation and development, the details related in this volume may be justified as being of sufficient permanent importance to be offered to the public.

The Matrons' Council.

HOSPITAL KITCHENS.

DISCUSSION.

The discussion that followed the reading of Miss Musson's most excellent paper was extremely interesting, but discursive and conversational in character. The following ladies, amongst others, took part in the discussion:—Miss Isla Stewart, of Bartholomew's; Miss Haughton, of Guy's; Mrs. Walter Spencer, Miss Marquardt, of Camberwell; and Miss Kingsford.

Points of interest touched upon were:—

(a) *Lady Cooks.*—The general concensus of opinion was undoubtedly in their favour. Under suitable conditions they were good disciplinarians, economical, and generally satisfactory. Their cooking powers naturally varied according to the individual, one lady cook showing greater gifts in dealing with bulk cooking, others for smaller and daintier dishes. Miss Isla Stewart made the fact of their suitability for large and up-to-date hospital establishments very clear; but the debate did not actually settle the point as to their adaptability for smaller and less perfect establishments.

(b) *Carving.*—The economy of good carving was discussed. Here, again, Miss Stewart supplied the Council with information, explaining how enormous the saving had been since the institution of a trained male carver for the nurses' dinners at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Miss Stewart estimated the saving at two joints per day. Miss Musson explained how the Birmingham General also employed a specially trained porter for the purpose.

(c) *Kitchen appliances* were discussed. Steam cooking was generally approved of, where the arrangements were perfect, but it was so little under the control of the kitchen staff, that it did not practically work out as well as it sounded theoretically. Miss Marquardt gave an excellent illustration of the failure of an otherwise excellent gas stove through faulty fixing. Teak sinks had their advocates, who thought they prevented the breakage of china, and their objectors, who thought they were liable to become saturated with grease. The Leeds Infirmary had had to remove their wooden sinks after a short life on that account. One member gave a harrowing account of the tanks of hot soap and soda water in some hotels, which were only emptied about twice a week.

(d) *Meat.*—Naturally the discussion opened with a reference to the relative value of fresh and frozen meat. Whilst all were agreed that fresh meat was preferable, and wasted less in cooking, it was allowed that the price was prohibitive for some institutions. Miss Kingsford remarked very aptly that frozen meat itself varied considerably, the same contractor often supplying excellent meat of good flavour in one consignment and of very much inferior quality in the next. It was generally agreed, however, that much of the meat supplied as fresh was really frozen, and that it was often very difficult to distinguish, owing to the improved methods used in preserving the same. The fact that good meat was often spoilt in the cooking,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)