

to smooth away the friction that is almost unavoidable between even the best workers, un-failing courtesy to visitors, though they may come at most inopportune moments. These are but a few of the qualities indispensable to a good Ward Sister.

One of the most important of a Sister's duties is the training of her probationers, and, strange to say, it is the part of their work Sisters most often fail in. Many are most capable women in every other respect. Their wards are well ordered, their patients excellently nursed, doctors' orders intelligently and well carried out; but the poor "pro.," the success of whose future career depends on the teaching and training she receives, is left to pick up knowledge as best she can. She is told to do things she has never been shown how to do, and scolded if she does them badly; and if she dares to ask for information, she is probably snubbed and made to feel such a fool she wishes she had never spoken.

Often when I have spoken about teaching the nurses, I have been told: "Oh, the patients need so much attention, and they must come first, there is no time to teach." Granted, the patients do need, and ought to receive, first and best care, but are not their very needs the golden opportunity for teaching nurses? Every attention to a patient can be made an object lesson to the nurses by the careful teacher, and where can a nurse be taught practical work so well as in the wards? The busiest wards I have worked in were the wards where I received most teaching—such teaching as I can never forget, and teaching that I wish I could obtain for my nurses now. If a woman has not got the ability of imparting knowledge, and the sympathy that enables her to get at the best that is in her pupils, she had better take up any work rather than that of a Sister, no matter how capable she may be in other respects.

Women with great strength of character combined with a sweet and tender nature, with the wide sympathy that makes them quick to perceive the needs of others, high principled, trustworthy, earnest workers in everything they undertake to do, these are the women suited to guide others; these are the women we need at the head of our wards. When we can give our probationers into the care of such women, we may indeed feel we have done the best that can be done to make them good nurses and useful women, but until we can give them the best, do not let us lay all the blame of failure on the probationers.

Those whose duty it is to teach probationers need, besides special aptitude for imparting knowledge, instruction in the art of teaching. Such instruction is seldom given to them.

In Memoriam.

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses is taking the initiative concerning an appropriate Memorial to their late Matron and President, and will consider the matter in Executive Committee this week. Later the members will consult with others, as they realise how dear she was to nurses and friends far and wide.

From Miss Annie W. Goodrich, President of the American Federation of Nurses, comes an expression of "sincere and intense sympathy." She writes: "It is with much sorrow that I have heard of the termination of Miss Stewart's work; her loss must at this moment seem to you irreparable, for it does to me: but I cannot fail to appreciate, after having watched her last summer, that she herself would rejoice that she was allowed to continue her work to the end—a true patriot's life and death."

From Miss L. L. Dock, the Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, the following touching little letter has been received:—

I cannot express my grief over the death of Miss Stewart. And yet the sad news was not unexpected. Last summer, and especially the evening of the Reception at Bart's, in the midst of the beautiful scene where she radiated hospitality and genial friendliness, I wondered how long we should have her, and felt a mournful intuition that we from this side might never see her again.

Dear Miss Stewart! So full of joy and purpose in life; so staunch and true, so big hearted and brave! We can ill afford to lose her. The memory of her will always be an inspiration. My deepest sympathies are for you, her comrades, who are so bereft in your work and in your councils.

The *Lancet* of April 2nd publishes the following appreciation of Miss Isla Stewart:—

May Florence be allowed to lay its little *immortelle* on the grave of this true "Sister of Mercy"? When just three years ago, at the instance of the Governing Body of St. Bartholomew's, she came to the City of Flowers for a brief respite from work, she received not only from the profession but from the well-informed lay public, Italian as well as British, the welcome due to her honourable record in hospital administration and philanthropic endeavour. All who had the opportunity of meeting her were speedily impressed by her force of character, her centripetal insight into detail, and her appreciation of the dominating factor, her catholic sympathies, her *sagacité de cœur*. No experience, particularly in her own *métier*, was thrown away upon her, and the hints and suggestions she made in her survey of the local hospitals were treasured all the more that there was some hope of her early return to the city, where she might

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