

duty in a male ward, owes her life to the promptitude of one of the patients, an old man named Edward Hudson, formerly a cab driver, thrown out of work by the introduction of motor cabs. The man jumped out of bed, and enveloped the nurse in one of his blankets. A subscription is being made by the Workhouse Committee, to give the man, whose character is quite satisfactory, a new start in life.

Councillor Margaret Ashton, of Manchester, is a thoroughly all round, practical woman, and made a very sensible speech to the nurses of the Manchester and Salford Sick Poor and Private Nursing Institution when handing them their certificates and prizes. Mrs. Lorrain Smith, one of the Hon. Secretaries, reported the new departure—the giving of four courses of lectures on social subjects. They included the problems of feeble-minded Poor Law children, the “children’s charter,” effective inspection, and infant mortality. During the autumn and spring terms 17 lectures had been given, some by Manchester medical men, which had been attended by about 60 of the nurses of the Institution, and other nurses who had applied specially for permission to attend. Twenty-three nurses came up for examination, and of these 17 obtained over 60 per cent. of marks.

Miss Margaret Ashton, in presenting the certificates, congratulated the nurses on their profession, which she had once hoped would have been her own profession. They had in their hands the sick people of the city, and they were devoting themselves to public service. She always felt about the nursing profession that there had been much false sentiment; an idea that it was a life of peculiar self-sacrifice, and that it was taken up from a religious ideal. That, she thought, was not the case. She did not believe that nurses went into the profession with the idea that it was a life of self-sacrifice. She believed it was taken up as a profession, a profession into which they could throw their whole soul, and make it their life’s interest. She did not think there was more self-sacrifice needed in the life of a nurse than in that of a doctor, a teacher, a mother, or many other professions which dealt entirely with humanity. Nurses were dealing with human lives, and, therefore, their responsibility might be greater. The power in their hands to deal with human beings at their most weak, helpless, and dependent periods was a grave trust, and there was no career higher than that of good nurses. At the same time, she condemned that sickly sort of sentiment which put

nurses apart from all other people; they were not different from other people, except that they had more opportunities than other people. It lay in their hands, when everything else had been done for them, to make nursing really the highest of all professions. They belonged to a grand profession, and it was for them to uphold it in its highest sense. It was theirs to make their profession not only beloved of themselves, but beloved of those with whom they came in contact, by the force of their own character and by the beauty of their own lives.

We are now quite used to the little “tweenie” in the suburbs masquerading in nurse’s uniform when she wheels the family twins in public places, but it remains for a Liverpool nurse to report that when she recently entered one of the largest drapery establishments in the city, she found the young lady who served at the perfumery counter clad in the orthodox uniform of the hospital sister. She asks why should not our uniform be sacred to the nursing profession? We reply because there is no nursing profession, and until an Act of Parliament secures to nurses legal status they have no more distinctive standing in the body politic than a “tweenie” maid! The chaotic condition of nursing and the helpless position of nurses is the fault of those trained nurses who are too apathetic to co-operate to organise their own work, and thus acquire the power to prevent themselves being exploited on all sides as they are at present.

The Annual Meeting of the Royal City of Dublin Hospital was held on March 31st in the hospital. The Earl of Pembroke, G.C.V.O., one of the Vice-Patrons, presided. There was a large attendance of both ladies and gentlemen. The report of the Directors states that there was an increase of patients in all the extern departments, but a decrease in the intern owing to the closing of some of the wards for structural alterations. The year closed with a debit balance of £1,716 14s. 1d. The Chairman in the course of his remarks said that he was very glad to see present Miss Helen Shuter, their late Matron. He could only express his regret that they had lost her services. He also gave a hearty welcome to her successor, Miss Edith Eddison.

As we go to press, a concert which promises to be a great success, is being held in Dublin in support of Lady Dudley’s Nursing Scheme. It is one of three, organised by Lord Shaftesbury for this excellent object, the others taking place in Belfast and Cork. Lord Shaftesbury

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