

they know; their blame is the blame of experts; their praise is worth having, because they can appreciate our difficulties.

We are keen for the same things, we are fighting side by side for the same object. They teach us and inspire us, not only by their surgical skill and by their scientific knowledge, but by their patience, their devotion to their duty, and their professional courtesy. It would be a sad and sorry day for the sick should the nurse and doctor cease to work together in that camaraderie, that mutual understanding, which is the best of all guarantees for the welfare of the patient.

And working loyally for the dual duty that yet is one, the nurse may well remember the old saying, apt and true, as old sayings have a trick of being:—"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

And for the nurse the doctor is Caesar, but the patient is God.

Pioneer Nursing in Italy.

To read the experiences of Miss Grace Baxter, R.N., Superintendent of the Gesù e Maria Hospital, Naples, related by her in the *Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumnae Magazine*, is to realise the difficulties encountered by pioneer workers in nursing reform in Italy.

There had been an empty ward in the hospital for some time. "Finally," writes Miss Baxter, "the Director-General came to me one day and said in his short incisive way: Are you prepared to take over a children's surgical ward and nurse it without any extraneous assistance (meaning the Sarah Gamps, who have hitherto been the necessary appendages of even those wards where we have had most responsibility)? I thought over my affairs, and was startled, but remembering the slowness of Italian methods, and the fact that the said ward was innocent of furniture, bedding, stoves, dishes, surgical appurtenances, lighting apparatus, gas, hoppers, and water taps, etc., I said 'Yes,' intending to prepare in the morning for increasing my staff, which was entirely insufficient, while the hospital got its ward ready.

"Next day was uneventful, and at five o'clock, just when I was thinking of going off duty, I passed the Secretary in the hall. She said casually, 'Those 20 children are coming in about half-an-hour. They have just tele-

phoned that the first batch has started from the Incurable Hospital!'

"'Misericordia!' I cried, 'Why, the room is as bare as a barn.'

Then ensued a time of wrestling with difficulties at first sight unsurmountable. The night nurse seemed most unattainable, for under the old system the nurses did not stay on at night. It was supposed to be compromising for a respectable Neapolitan to stay in a hospital at night, and there was no money to pay a head night nurse. Happily one of her pupils came to Miss Baxter's assistance. 'I have no objection,' she said, 'to sitting up one night if you will allow me to go home and tell my father.'

Thus began pandemonium, and it was quite four weeks before the nightmare cleared up. The nurses threatened to strike, and "it was," says Miss Baxter, "a question of who would hold out longest, but by discharging one and threatening, wheedling, and arguing with the others, besides having the good luck to find more probationers at the right time, I finally won the battle after six weeks. The nurses now quietly read the daily lists, and go to their places on day or night duty without any discussion; and, in return for their docility, they get their uniform free, calculated at 20 cents a night, from the 100 dollars which Miss Dock was so kind as to procure for me.

"We have also been able to employ two respectable night chaperons, at \$4 for fifteen nights, who take turns in sitting up with the nurses, and an English trained nurse as assistant by day, a Miss Bertha Tulloch from St. George's Hospital, London. These last two luxuries have been procured for our school by our President, her Excellency the Princess of Strongoli, who, while on duty at Court, obtained a grant of 2,000 francs from the Government for the purpose. We have also got a brand new operating room with a graduate in charge, for the children's operations.

"Under these circumstances which, considering our past difficulties and troubles, constitute a real bed of roses, I take this opportunity to thank our dear Miss Dock, and all those who have had a part in the donation which came to us through her, for the real assistance they have given us. The uniform which my dreadfully penniless nurses now earn by their night duty, is, I am convinced, largely responsible for their present docility."

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