

and hygiene, and these are among the subjects that students of medicine and nursing are taught. It is true that the studies of the former are carried to an advanced degree, but then a higher degree of expert knowledge is required from them, and it does not detract from the fact that both should have a good grounding in the elements of these sciences.

This need of scientific training should be more recognised, for its importance is becoming greater day by day, one or two instances of the necessity of this will not be out of place. It is not too much to say that the majority of operations in the present day are completely dependent for their success on the aseptic environment of the patient, and this depends on the most minute care of the part of all those who are in any way brought in contact with the patient, and I need not remind you that any want of the appreciation of the dangers or any want of exactness in detail may leave a weak link in the aseptic chain, and this will bring about one of those surgical calamities that all so deeply deplore. Attention has been called to this need in a recent editorial in one of the journals devoted to nursing, as follows:—

“It is obvious that if the aseptic ritual is to be thoroughly carried out, nurses must not only be prepared to give exact effect to the directions they receive, but they must also understand the rules which are the basis of the aseptic method, and must bring their intelligence to bear upon their work so that it may be thorough in every detail.”

It is not only in this branch of medicine, but in others, that this scientific spirit is required. It is sometimes said that typhoid fever is a disease essentially for nursing, and it is true that skilled nursing is invaluable, but however careful and conscientious a nurse may be, unless there is a keen observation and a trained intelligence to value correctly the facts observed, an early perforation may be overlooked and many precious hours lost.

Instances need not be multiplied of this value of the leaven of science. It is a part of the nurses' training to which attention is not always sufficiently paid; different training schools have different standards, and there is no recognised portal of entrance.

It would be a great gain to nursing, to medicine, and to the public alike if there was a recognised standard of knowledge required, as there is in the case of other professions. It is not to be supposed that this increase of scientific training is advocated at the expense of other qualities required in nursing, but rather that more attention should be paid to it, for it

would lead to a greater interest in the work, a greater efficiency, and in the end would be of greater assistance to medicine. I have often thought that medicine would gain much if some skilled and observant member of your profession would write of disease out of the fulness of knowledge gained by a long experience at the bedside.

That troubles arise from increased knowledge is not the case, and this idea had been refuted repeatedly by experience, not only in this but in other fields of learning as well. Dangers lie in half knowledge, and with a closer scientific relationship a deeper sense of responsibility and a greater confidence in each other would develop.

In the address of the President of your Council the future expansion of nursing was clearly and admirably outlined, inasmuch as the two professions are not only associated in the relief of suffering, but in the future will be associated in the maintenance of good health. All the greater necessity, therefore, for an increase in the standard of training and knowledge.

ETHICAL RELATION.

It is not for me to enlarge upon the many advantages that nursing has been to medicine, not the least has been that the work of medicine has been made easier to the practitioners. With the advent of the nurse the sense of relief to the doctor to feel that there is a skilled and responsible person in charge has to be felt to be appreciated. And who has not seen order come out of chaos, and the fretted nerves of patients and friends soothed and quieted. In fact, we may look upon nursing in the abstract as a therapeutic agent of great value, a remedial application, sometimes pleasant, sometimes unpleasant, but nearly always beneficial.

Another aspect of the subject which has to be considered may be called the ethical. It is an interesting and a significant fact, that Miss Nightingale in her writings, especially in the “Notes on Nursing,” makes no remarks on the relationship of nurses and doctors, and I suppose that no one had greater difficulties to contend against or overcame them so successfully.

To lay down any set rules for the guidance of the two professions in this relationship to each other would be well nigh impossible, nor do I feel tempted to undertake such a Herculean task that would be bound to end in failure. With the ever-increasing knowledge of medicine and the greater requirements therefore in nursing, fresh problems are constantly arising and the relations of the two have to be modified. Also the work is carried on under such varied conditions that rules which would apply

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