

she has failed in her duty when he slips from the doctor's skill and her vigilant care.

The nurse may also fulfil a beneficent rôle in simple and humble homes where she is almost alone, by nursing the patient and keeping the house going, where she must so to say, look after everything; there she must be very simple and modest. Is it the mother who is laid up—a widow perhaps with children? Then she must manage them, and watch over them. If on the contrary the husband is at home, she will need even greater tact and discretion to make all pleasant.

How great and numerous, therefore, are the qualities required to fulfil such a mission or rather such a diversity of missions. The most varied qualities are called for in the nursing profession.

First, the qualities of the heart. It must be admitted that, however remunerative we may seek to make the profession of nursing, it can never become a trade; it requires a special vocation, the gift of self-love for the poor sufferers, ardent thirst to be among the elect who comfort and heal. The most humble among women may be gifted with these sublime virtues of devotion, but if it be true that the heart is a great master capable of pointing the path we must follow, yet it must be recognised that in order to fulfil the duties of a nurse as we understand them, it is necessary that the intellectual qualities should come to the aid of moral and educational qualities. A patient subjected to a long period of convalescence will require to be entertained, to find in his nurse a woman capable of chatting with him, of reading interesting literature about which they can exchange their views and impressions. The convalescent also likes to find cheerfulness in the woman who nurses him, she must be able to tell him a good story, and to bring a bright laugh to his lips.

And in England you have so well understood and realised all this that the daughters of your noblest families, of the highest social classes, have become nurses, deeming it a true title of nobility to add to that of their birth: devoting themselves to healing and comforting the sick.

Your Ruskin spoke delightfully of the Queen's garden, of the splendid rôle a woman may play at her fireside; nor is it less praiseworthy to bring peace, health, and comfort to homes which have been disturbed by the anguish and disorder brought about by disease and sickness.

The Nursing School in the Rue Amyot, Paris, of which Mme. Alphen Salvador is the Founder and President, was the first organised in that city to train nurses for private duty.

Progress of State Registration.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

During the week a statement, on the important question of State Registration of Trained Nurses, has been issued to upwards of 1,300 Parliamentary candidates from the Central Office of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. The Hon. Secretary has already received a great number of replies, the very large majority of which contain promises to support a Bill on the lines of that passed by the House of Lords in 1908. This is most encouraging.

Now comes a question for individual nurses. Have you written to your local candidates, and asked your male relatives to do so? If not, why not? Please do your part, and catch the next post.

THE CENTRAL REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

The following delegates have been appointed by the Royal British Nurses' Association to attend the Registration Bill Conference summoned by Lord Ampthill for January 25th, to be held in the Council Room of the British Medical Association, 429, Strand, W.C.:—W. Bezly Thorne, Esq., M.D., John Langton, Esq., F.R.C.S., Clement Godson, Esq., M.D., Miss Grace Gordon, and Miss Tawney.

We are pleased to learn from several sources that Lord Ampthill's continued interest in the important question of Nurse Registration is inspiring confidence in the future success of the movement, and that the delegates realise the importance of the occasion. The constitution of the Registration Council is, of course, the great difficulty, but there appears a strong consensus of opinion that with good sense and a genuine determination that the best interests of the sick and the nursing profession as a whole shall be conserved, that a representative workable governing body can be defined. The national interests of Scotland and Ireland must receive due consideration in any acceptable scheme, but the unity of the nursing profession throughout the United Kingdom must be provided for, if the nurses resident in the three countries are to be justly treated. The Bill must also inspire a scheme of practical Imperial reciprocity, so that the nurses in our Dominions beyond the seas, and those going thence from home shall, if maintaining equal professional standards, be registered throughout the British Empire. As it is, we hear that both in South Africa, and Australasia, invidious distinctions are possible, and "registered nurses" from New Zealand are surprised to find that their legal status has no significance in the mother country.

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