

difficult with regard to this question to find proper ways and means in the hospitals.

The tone of the relations between doctors and nurses of course depends on the personality of the women and the Medical Director.

If the head doctor has no respect for womanhood, it is generally wanting in his subordinates, and very frequently when the doctor is obviously in the wrong with regard to a Sister, the medical direction will all the same take his part, and nothing is left to the Sister but to go if she will not submit quietly.

As long as we have to reckon with a great number of average individuals in both professions, and as long as all the power is in the hands of men, these difficulties will continue to exist.

If a Sister of high personal excellence, such as our vocation demands, works under a doctor of the same quality, the relations are regulated in the most satisfactory manner with regard to all concerned in the most natural way without any assistance or reflection.

In the interest of the sick it is most desirable that there should be no doctors who lose all self-control in the operating-room, so that instruments are thrown about by them and rough language is used, or who are capable of making bad jokes at the sick bed and of carrying on doubtful conversations.

It is also, for the same reason, desirable that there should be no foolish or hypersensitive Sisters.

Let us hope that the growing self-organisation of the Sisters may enable them to gain the necessary self-discipline, and may develop the necessary respect on the part of the doctors.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

A meeting of the Matrons' Council will be held by the courtesy of the Board of Management at the General Hospital, Birmingham, on Friday, July 15th. The business meeting will be at 3 p.m., at which the new President will be elected. State Registration of Nurses will be discussed at 4.30. We hope a good contingent will make up a party from London. It is a very easy journey, and no doubt a very happy day will be spent.

The busy capital of the Midlands is an excellent centre for many interesting excursions, and for those who can spare time to stay several days Warwick, Kenilworth, Lichfield, and Stratford-on-Avon are all within easy reach.

The Fate of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The appointment of a lady who, by every rule and standard of the Training School of the Great Hospital of St. Bartholomew's is declared to be incompletely trained, to be Head of the Nursing Staff is a blow almost crushing in its severity to the professional status of nurses. Wheresoever the news travels throughout civilisation, every nurse hearing it will feel that an unmerited slur has been cast, and a grievous injury has been done, to one of the most important training schools in the world, and to every nurse who holds its certificate.

During the past thirty years a St. Bartholomew's nurse has held in the nursing world a position of unquestioned eminence. In America, India, and in our Dominions Beyond the Seas, a nurse "trained at Bart's" goes in her nursing capacity unchallenged. At home and abroad no other London institution has ever appealed to the imagination of the people in the same way as St. Bartholomew's with its record of eight centuries of healing. No other hospital has succeeded in inspiring greater faith and confidence than is felt in the nurses who hold its time-honoured three-years' certificate. Whether rightly or wrongly I do not say, but hitherto from nurses themselves as well as from the public at large, it has been conceded that a Bart's certificate gives to a nurse a status in her profession which has been surpassed by no training school in the world, and equalled by few.

The Great Hospital of St. Bartholomew's and her position as a School for Nurses has been strengthened by tradition. Founded in religion, maintained by pious men and women, through the ages this lovely old hostel has given sanctuary to the sick within its gates, and to the nurses who tended them. Even amongst the old Gamps who in the course of time replaced the Sisters of Mercy were found good women and true, who gave comfort and consolation to the inmates, and did their poor best in their nursing.

So that when the reformation came some thirty-three years ago, and nursing as a skilled art was introduced into the Hospital, the mediæval ideal lived again, and self-sacrifice and devotion to the sick were shown by the nurses as in the old days when the holy nuns and monks healed the sick by faith, by herbs, and by simples.

At Bart's a true and tender Spirit of Nursing has always inspired the work. Tradition dies

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