

would be impossible not only for women to nurse men, but for male doctors to attend women—I had almost said for men and women to have ordinary free intercourse with one another—but luckily it is not so.

A surgeon will carry out a delicate operation on a woman much as a clever carpenter will do a special piece of joinery, whilst the average nurse washes a male patient with no more emotion than if he were a locker.

There are, of course, as everyone knows, certain male cases that should not be nursed by women, but they are, as everyone in the profession equally well knows, not nursed by women; there are sufficient male nurses for such cases. There are also some women who would be far better with a female doctor. But these men and these women are abnormalities, not common, and should be, and are, as a rule, provided for.

The classical bestialities to which Dr. Renshaw refers in connection with nursing are absolutely and entirely absent from the mind of every decent nurse in any decent training school. Dr. Renshaw can indeed know little of women, and I sincerely regret his unfortunate experiences with nurses; he must have met a curious type. He trots out the same dead lame old stalking horse of "women being hard on women." It is sheer nonsense—generalising is always dangerous, and usually untrue, especially when you generalise concerning a whole sex. There are women so kind, so generous, so just to women, that you can trust them through thick and thin, and there are hard and bitter women—granted—but between the best and the worst runs a whole gamut of kindly, variable human beings, not perfect, thank Heaven, but loyal to their own sex, and kind and true to one another in trouble.

In "Faust" Dr. Renshaw will doubtless remember, it is the devil, Mephistopheles, masquerading as a professor, who gives the chuckling, brutal advice and suggestive hints to the would-be young medical student, not God.

If a nurse be pure, honourable, and decent, remembering that the poor body is only the casket of the spirit and the soul, she will not go far wrong if she follows the external instinct in her—that bids her cherish, tend, and care for the sick and wretched, even if they be men, she will remember that there is nothing higher than the duty she is pledged to perform, and that no good and noble work was ever performed by any human being who was afraid to wade out into the mud to help another, and who was perpetually looking to see if the hem of his or her own garment remained clean.

M. MOLLETT.

Progress of State Registration.

The *Week End* of August 4th, commenting on Mr. Sydney Holland's struggle "for the recognition of a nursing standard, which the great majority of the members of the medical and nursing professions consider inadequate," in connection with the Bart's Matronship goes on to say, "But we hope that when next he feels disposed to state that the more important of the official medical bodies are opposed to the State Registration of nurses, he will remember that at the Annual Representative Meeting held recently at the Guildhall, the following resolution, moved by Dr. E. W. Goodall, and seconded by Sir Victor Horsley, was carried *nem con.*" The resolution published in our issue of July 30th is then printed, and the paragraph concludes: "After all, time is on the side of the women."

The *Birmingham Daily Gazette* devotes nearly a column of space to a sympathetic article on the registration question, giving the views of a Birmingham Hospital Matron on the subject.

In Scotland Miss E. A. Stevenson has ably championed the Registration cause in the *Glasgow Herald*, in which she has crossed swords with Mr. Holland. No unprejudiced person who has followed the correspondence can doubt to whom the victor's palm should be awarded.

The Truth About State Registration in the United States.

LETTERS TO MISS L. L. DOCK.

ILLINOIS.

MY DEAR MISS DOCK,

Your letter of recent date at hand.

First, you ask me for some points demonstrating the gain that registration for nurses has been in our state. I will jot down a few of what seem to me the chief points.

First, is the desire of small and inadequate training schools to bring their course of study, period of training, etc., up to the requirements. Some of even the very poor schools, it seems to me, have quite a laudable desire to really possess the desired qualifications, not merely to seem to possess them. It is perhaps a satisfaction to the Board that we get the credit by these schools of poor grade as being the cause of their receiving so many less applications for entrance this past fall.

Another encouraging result is that nurses generally, it seems to me, are waking up to the necessity and desirability of affiliating themselves with various nursing bodies—their alumnae, the State Association, Superintendents' Society, etc. Last might be mentioned the growing concern of the nurses who

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