

sion. These qualities are the result of an evolution begun since the early ages of our race. An American philosopher, John Fiske, has voiced the theory that a great deal of the progress of the human race is due to the fact that the period of development of childhood is very much slower than that of the superior animals. The prolongation of this period, during which the child depends on its parents, for its care, food, and protection has resulted in the development of its complex cerebral functions, and created new ties between parents and their offspring. Family life, such as it exists to-day, is born of this long physical helplessness of the child and its reliance on its parents. It has been the ties uniting the child to its mother, which have drawn them to each other through their biological necessity. The child turns to his mother, far more than he does to his father, for food, bodily care, instruction, and play; it is from her, too, that he expects help when he suffers. The mother is the natural nurse of the sick child, even so, has the mother become the hereditary nurse of primitive mankind, on her has fallen the care of the infirm, the sick, and the dying. From this point of view, the modern nurse might be considered the result of an evolution, the beginnings of which go back to the furthest and most mysterious of our race. Heredity, selection, the specialisation of aptitudes, have resulted in the fact that women are more tender hearted, lighter handed, more intuitive, and more patient to those who suffer. Women, therefore, are nurses by right of birth, and it is a superiority in front of which bow down with gratitude.

The nursing of the sick having become a liberal profession, will still be restricted almost exclusively to the sex which is more gifted for this profession.

Preventive Nursing.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Perth Sick Poor Nursing Society, the Rev. William Patterson said the work of the Society ought to hold a primary place in philanthropic work in the city, and should be worthy of the best support and best endeavour. The aim of the Society was curative. It sought to get at the defects, and by removing these to enable the people to be independent and able to earn their own living. The work went to the homes of the people and not only sought to remove disease but to prevent the disease, and the nurses advised the measures that should be taken by the people visited to keep themselves healthy and fit for their daily labours.

The Registration Reunion and Pageant.

THE EVOLUTION OF TRAINED NURSING.

All the parts in the forthcoming Nursing Pageant and Masque have been allotted, and all those who are taking part are looking forward with the keenest enthusiasm to doing so.

THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME.

1.—PROCESSION OF IMMORTALS.

Hygeia, Goddess of Health

Miss Irene Fergusson

Attended by

Earth Miss Clare C. Eyles
Fire Miss Dorothy Gordon
Air Miss Kathleen Wilson
Water Mrs. Beard

The Spirit of Nursing ... Miss Audrey Campbell

Attended by the Attributes

Compassion Miss M. Mackenzie Davidson
Kindness Miss M. Turnbull
Gentleness Miss G. M. Day
Modesty Miss E. Gough
Courage Miss P. Smallcombe
Patience Miss E. Spencer
Devotion Miss E. Hooper
Endurance Miss B. Manson

Science Miss Winifred Bridger

Attended by the Attributes

Truth Miss G. Tomlinson
Mental Purity Miss H. Snow
Moral Beauty Miss E. Churton-Collins
Knowledge Miss F. Mann
Observation Miss J. Brymer
Diligence Miss F. Powell
Understanding Miss E. Fowler
Intellectual Discipline

Miss E. Mathew-Lannowe

2.—PROCESSION OF SAINTLY WOMEN AND THE NURSING ORDERS.

Agamedé the Fair-haired, *The Iliad*

Miss Kathleen Bannister

Pheobe of Cenchrea, 1st Century

Miss B. Kent

The Empress Helena, 3rd Century

Mrs. Staples

Marcella, 4th Century Miss Elma Smith

St. Bridget of Kildare, 6th Century

Miss V. Adams

St. Hilda of Whitby, 7th Century

Miss B. Cutler

Grand Master of the Order of

St. John of Jerusalem,

12th Century Mr. J. S. Burns

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