

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,238

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1911.

Vol. XLVII.

EDITORIAL.

THE GOSPEL OF WORK.

"The honest, earnest man must stand and work,
The woman also—otherwise she drops
And once below the dignity of man,
Accepting serfdom. Free men freely work;
Whoever fears God, fears to sit at ease."

There is no doubt that the happiest people in the world are found in the ranks of the workers. To work in some form or another is indispensable to our self-respect, "To learn and labour truly to get mine own living" is an honourable ideal to set before oneself, or, if, by the work of our forebears, we are set free from the necessity of self-support we are still under the obligation to work for the good of the community; to be a drone in the hive of life is to occupy a despicable position, and to be without an object worthy of attainment is to court the *ennui* which fills the consulting rooms of fashionable medical practitioners with the victims of unwholesome introspection, discontent and neurasthenia.

No class of the community work harder, and none probably are happier than trained nurses, and the reason no doubt is that their profession makes such large demands on all their faculties—mental, physical, and spiritual. If their work is hard it is satisfying, and the woman with the genuine nursing instinct is yet to find who would exchange her vocation in life for any other whatsoever.

Every worker desires to be successful, not necessarily to obtain that success which is cheap and easy to secure, but, having espoused a cause worthy of his life's devotion, worked for it, agonized for it may be, it is a legitimate ambition to desire to see the fruition of his toil.

A writer in *The American Journal of Clinical Medicine* gives wise advice on the subject. He writes: "It has been my good fortune

to meet personally some successful men and a good many failures. There isn't much difference between the two as regards ability—nor have I found much variation as to opportunity; yet the reasons for the success of the one variety stuck out all over them like seeds on a strawberry. 1. They wanted something; 2. They knew what they wanted; 3. They determined to get it; 4. They believed they could get it; 5. They went to work to get it, and kept working hard, and as fast as they were knocked down they got up and went at it again. And they won out at last. The last item is especially important—some men seem to form the habit of being beaten. . . .

"Whatever it is a man chooses as his one want, he must treat it as the grower of big flowers does—pick off all the others, and let everything go to feed the chosen one. So much the more reason one should be thoughtful in making his choice.

"After all it comes down to work. The hardest worker wins out. The man who puts in more and better thought, more time, more labour, takes more pains, wins at the last. Few admit that the cause of their failure was innate. Lack of opportunity, fraud, graft, influence, all these are mere excuses to cover out of sight the real difficulty, the weakness that marred the plans."

Let us therefore, one and all, determine to be successful in the object which we set before us. It may be advancement in our profession—an honourable and legitimate aspiration—or it may be that we have realized that we can best serve the profession which commands our affection and allegiance by devoting ourselves to the difficult work of its organization. In either case if we determine to succeed, and refuse to recognize the possibility of failure, the goal will be three parts won.

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