

A high degree of 'nerve' and of moral courage is required to make an efficient type of nurse, but she also needs to carry about with her Charity's mantle. 'A Hospital Matron' says very truly that 'no real nursing can exist where the patient's personality is treated as non-existent, and the area of disease alone is considered.' But surely this is an argument all the other way. The disease and its etiology may inspire the nurse with 'horror and repulsion,' but if, at the same time, it induces her to feel nothing but 'disgust for its victims,' I think she would be wiser in choosing some calling that makes no claim on her human sympathies. The 'intolerance of youth' is not permitted to those who nurse the sick. All of us who have worked in general hospitals have had occasion to nurse 'police cases.' But a patient is a patient, and so long as his physical disabilities require our skilful ministrations his entire dependence on us must appeal to our nursing instincts, and we take little or no count of his moral obliquities. Incidentally, I have known this attitude to have a very humanising effect on the 'sinner.' And with regard to the sinner who comes to us for bodily tending I think we would do well to remember how it was once said: 'Neither do I condemn thee.'

We agree with Mrs. Kanthack Voss that when a woman enters a hospital for training she must be prepared to take risks, but our opinion is that it is the duty of hospital committees to reduce those risks to a minimum by expert teaching of probationers in relation to every disease to be nursed, and also to teach them the science of preventive nursing.

Personally we visited the venereal wards alluded to nearly every day for six years, and well remember the gratitude of both men and women for personal recognition and interest in their tragic condition. There was on one occasion a cab full of white flowers sent from a wedding, and we had them all sent to Magdalen and Lazarus. They made a brave array, and as a symbol of purity delighted many doomed creatures for days. It is high time we eliminated moral censure in treating venereal patients; the disease and the human entity are the primary concern of the doctor and the nurse.

The danger which may occur to patients when persons who are mentally unstable are employed in nursing duties is illustrated by the deaths of infants which have occurred in a New York Hospital. A woman suspected of being concerned with the mysterious illness from which eight babies have died, besides a dozen more being seriously ill, has, so a contemporary states, confessed that she put oxalic acid into the babies' bottles. She asserted to the police

that she did not wish to poison them, but that she "wished to get square with the nurses and other people who had not treated her and her baby right." Her method of revenge was to make the babies ill, so that they might have to work hard. Her way of achieving this was to go to the refrigerator late one night, and pour a little oxalic acid into each of the bottles of milk. When she had treated some dozen bottles she was frightened by the slamming of a door, and retreated. She appears to have been employed, out of charity, to assist the nurses that she might be near her own baby.

We are asked by Miss Donaldson, Matron of the Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, to state that the meeting of the Nurses' National Total Abstinence League, which was to have been held at the Hospital on March 6th, has been unavoidably postponed owing to unforeseen circumstances.

THE PASSING BELL.

With every mark of respect and honour the funeral of the late Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Matron of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, took place on Tuesday, February 20th. In addition to the near relatives, and a large number of the general public, the directors of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution were represented by Mr. W. I. de Courcy Wheeler, F.R.C.S., Dr. Robert Wheeler, Dr. Gibbon FitzGibbon, and Dr. G. E. Fitzgerald. Thirty of the nurses went to the Kingsbridge Station, and two of their number—Miss Growney and Miss Carr—represented the Institution at the funeral service at Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny. The Irish Matrons' Association was represented by its President, Miss O'Flynn, Matron of the Children's Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin, Miss Ramsden, Miss Kelly, Miss Holden, Miss Sutton, Mrs. Manning, Miss Eddison, Miss Bradbourne, Miss Joy, Miss Lamont, Miss Keating, Miss Towers, Miss Jones and Miss Burkitt.

The Irish Nurses' Association was also represented by its President, Miss I. C. Keogh, Miss Shuter, Vice-President, Miss Huxley, Miss MacDonnell, R.R.C., Miss Carson-Rae, Secretary, and other members, and three Sisters represented Stevens' Hospital.

The wreath sent by the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses was of white lilies and violets, and bore a suitable inscription. The Irish Matrons' Association sent a wreath, and the Nurses' Association a cross, of choice flowers.

The Directors of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution at their last meeting unanimously expressed, by resolution, their "deep regret at the loss the Institution has sustained by the death of Mrs. Kildare Treacy—whose whole-hearted devotion to the Institution did so much to raise it to its present position."

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