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## EDITORIAL.

### THE COMPENSATIONS OF NURSING.

It is admitted by all who have acquaintance with the subject that the work of the trained nurse is extremely arduous and responsible, and that in relation to its responsibility it is as a rule very underpaid, yet still nursing attracts numerous applicants for admission to the training schools. What then are the advantages which it offers in competition with those afforded by the many openings which now present themselves to girls who desire to decide upon a career?

In the first place there is the live human interest, often, no doubt, prompted at first by ill-informed sentiment which, however, in the woman with a true vocation quickly gives place to tenderness reinforced by strength, as a knowledge of the suffering borne by humanity with so much fortitude, urges itself upon her attention, and braces her to equip herself, as perfectly as she may, to aid the sufferer in his struggle with the forces of disease, or to ease the journey through the valley of the shadow of death. Who that has experienced the thrill of satisfaction felt when a patient has been rescued from death itself after constant watching and careful nursing, would exchange her profession for that of any other woman worker? An eight hours working day is not for her. It may be that at times of special urgency she works continuously for 24 hours at a stretch, yet when she compares the live interest of a critical case, with the monotony of going up and down the scale of a type-writer, she would not change places with the typist, or clerical worker, for any monetary consideration whatsoever.

Then comes the scientific interest which year by year increases, as it becomes evident that, if a nurse is to perform her

duties aright, she must be acquainted not only with the rudiments of anatomy, physiology, hygiene, and domestic economy, but with such subjects as materia medica, dietetics, bacteriology, sterilization and disinfection. The joy of acquiring knowledge, to be put subsequently to a practical use, need not be enlarged upon to the true student.

And that practical use is never better realized than when we are summoned to the bedside of those near and dear to us, and we realize that the knowledge gained in the class room, and at the bedside of many sick persons, has armed us for the fight in the struggle for lives most precious to us. We take our place in the sick room, not only by the right of kinship, but by right of knowledge, and the laborious days and nights which we have spent in becoming skilful and efficient in those services for which the sick are dependant upon trained nurses seem time well spent indeed.

It is a keen delight not only to render these services, but to know that those whom we love like to receive them at our hands, that they repose confidence in us, and that it is an alleviation of the tedium of their illness, the severity of their pain, that we are at hand to carry out the treatment which has been prescribed. Those nurses who have experienced this poignant pleasure know well that for no consideration would they have missed the satisfaction and comfort it afforded them.

Nursing is a stern and exacting task-mistress, but to those who serve her aright she extends many gifts which more than compensate those whose allegiance she owns for the hard terms she imposes. Nurses are admittedly one of the happiest, if not the happiest class of the community. Their happiness is found not in the conditions of their work, but in the satisfaction which its accomplishment holds for them.

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