

to teach nurses the art of teaching the individual patient must themselves possess like qualifications. One teaching invalids should be familiar with the limitations imposed by all sorts of diseases. She should be able to find just the thing which a person suffering from chest troubles might safely do without aggravating symptoms; while she should be no less appreciative of orthopaedic cases. She must detect eye-strain, and know and heed the early signs of fatigue before the patient is himself conscious of it. Nervous disorders and temperamental differences must be read and appreciated individually. . . . There may be a feeling that most successful nurses are far too busy to take time for this special training. The group which promises well for this is made up of those nurses who have already had a somewhat long experience in private nursing; who have come to a realisation of the great need, and also feel the strain of nursing, so that a six months' course, to be followed by an opportunity to teach, sounds refreshing. A class made up in this way would be a desirable and certain aid to the work."

Dealing with "typical invalids," the author writes of the "child of poverty and the child of wealth"; and shows that when occupation treatment is introduced, the poor child is rich, because of his apparent poverty; the rich child is poor, because of his riches. But a nurse who can fashion a great variety of interesting objects from the barest scraps, becomes in the estimation of any child, rich or poor, a sort of magician."

Occupations for patients in restricted positions, in quarantine, one-hand lessons, in the hospital, for grandmother, and for the business man, are all most practically and interestingly described. The old man, with waning powers, receives special consideration; and the trying time between the calculated and actual time of a confinement, is not forgotten; while patients "without sight" have a chapter to themselves. We have previously referred to the valuable chapter on the clouded mind. English nurses are indebted to Miss L. L. Dock, who presented "Studies in Invalid Occupations" to the International Nursing Library, for their introduction to this altogether delightful volume.

M. B.

### NURSING IN ITALY.

We hope the advertisements which have appeared in this JOURNAL recently for a Matron and Nurses for the Public Hospital at Spezia, in Italy, have been well responded to. We know that the requirement—a knowledge of Italian—will deter many otherwise suitable candidates from applying. As English nurses are now so often called upon to start a good nursing system on the Continent, and to work in different countries, it is becoming very necessary that those entering the profession at home should acquire a knowledge of languages.

### BOOK OF THE WEEK.

#### MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD.\*

The career of a journalist and, incidentally, of many journalists, is set forth in these pages. Fleet Street is its environment. It is powerfully written, this book, and full of strong purpose. The men and women of its pages are the workers of the world, all of whom have a definite goal in view. Almost it might be said that it is a trifle too strenuous. It deals almost exclusively with the profession which supplies its title, and will be read with great interest by those who are engaged in like work.

The gradual absorption of these people by its insistent claims, its strong call and hold upon them, is graphically described in the opening pages in the person of Ferrol, looking back over an interval of thirty years. The girl in the familiar old cathedral town who had fulfilled her destiny in inspiring him; the gradual nausea that came over him; the monotony of it all that fell like a weight upon his heart; his coming to London; the gradual estrangement of his love; "none of the pang of parting; he was striving and struggling upward—all men travel fastest when alone. Now to-day he was Ferrol of 'The Day' who whispered, and Berlin, Vienna, or San Francisco gave him his needs. The clerks in the counting-house, the advertising men, the grimy printer's boy in the basement, the type-setters, and the block-makers, messengers, typists—they were all bricks in the edifice which was built up for the men who wrote the paper—the edifice of which Ferrol was the keystone."

But he always cherished that memory of his one romance that had tapered away out of his life, and caused him to seek out young Humphry, the son of her subsequent marriage, and give him his chance as a journalist.

Full of ambition and confidence as he was, his first launching on the journalistic world was an instruction to "nose out" a tragedy at the "London end." Rivers' parting words were ringing in his ears. "And don't you fall down, young man," he had said, using the vivid metaphor for failure. "The busy people of the street surged about him as he stood still for a moment trying to think where he should begin on the London end. He thought how Wratten would have known at once where to go how easily Tommy Pride, with his years of training, would do the job." But Humphry was not of the stuff of which failures are made.

His meeting and wooing of Lilian, who was employed in the Special News Agency, is a welcome incident in the story, and the girl is of good stuff, with an elusiveness about her that is very attractive. "For days and days she had withstood the eager battery of his assault upon her heart. 'No,' she had said gently, 'you are a dear boy

\* By Alphonse Courlander. T. Fisher Unwin, Adelphi Terrace, London.

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