

Lamp" stands bareheaded in the simple dress of the picturesque Victorian period, which preceded the crinoline. In her left hand she carries a candlestick, whilst with her right she is shielding her eyes from its light. The portrait and model were founded on a statuette in the possession of Sir Harry Verney, and the effect is most peaceful.

In the Florence Nightingale memorial Mr. Merrett returns to his earliest ideals—that of the portrayal of perfect womanhood—and his work of 1912, when placed alongside "Sympathy," which appeared in the Royal Academy of 1873, when the sculptor was only 16 years of age, affords an interesting study in the evolution of Mr. Merrett's art.

A discursive discussion is taking place in the *Church Times* on the "hardness," not to say brutality, of nurses. That there are unsympathetic nurses in the ranks we very well know, but, taken as a class, trained nurses are kindly people. "A Bart's Nurse" tells the following little stories, and we could supplement them by others. Sick people, especially the poor, have little use for sentimentality, and prefer a cheerful to a dolorous face.

I was, until quite lately, a nurse for fifteen years in our oldest London hospital, and I am bound to say that in all that time saw nothing of the "hardness" and "brutality" of the nurses complained of by your two correspondents.

Whilst acting sister I remember getting ready an old soldier for operation; the probationer, a woman of thirty, was helping me to put on his socks and flannel gown, preparatory to his being taken to the theatre, when she suddenly burst into tears. "Wot's the lydy crying for?" said the patient, in alarm; and when I explained that it was because he was to be operated upon, he exclaimed: "She needn't cry for me, Sister; I'm only too glad, I am. I knows the nurses and doctors have done all they could all these weeks to save my arm, but I've been begging the house surgeon long enough to take it off, and I've been looking forward to operation day ever since he said he would. She's Scotch, ain't she, Sister? I could do with a little Scotch," with a laugh, "but not that sort!"

One day a lady, a relative of one of the nurses, came to look over the ward, and remarked to me at the end, "I cannot think how you nurses ever laugh." When we made the men's beds that night, one of them said, "I'm glad that lady ain't our nuss; if the nusses was to pull such long faces as hers, we should all think we wos goin' to die!"

I could quote many such stories. Cheerfulness and brightness in a nurse do not denote callousness, and a joke in the ward has often helped "a lame dog over his stile."

Mr. Windeatt, at the meeting of the Devon Education Committee, moved the adoption of a recommendation by Dr. Adkins that the school nurse be placed on the permanent staff of the Committee. He said the arrangement in regard to the school nurse had worked admirably. From all he could hear, the parents were far more ready to take the advice of the nurse than even that of their own doctor. Dr. Adkins said the value of her work was shown by the fact that the pediculosis rate had been reduced from thirty to six. The motion was carried.

### THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society is the only Society which has been approved by the Insurance Commissioners for professional women nurses only, and it will be economically managed in the interests of trained nurses by a very representative Committee of Matrons and Nurses with expert financial advice, as a FRIENDLY Society, not merely by men as an *Insurance Society*. All hospital nurses trained and in training are eligible for membership. Forms can be obtained from the Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to grant to the British Medical Benevolent Fund the title of Royal, so that it will henceforth be known as the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.

An anonymous donation of £3,000 has been sent by post to the West London Hospital, Hammersmith. It was made by cheque, which bore two signatures, apparently on behalf of a third party. The officials had no clue whatever to the identity of the donor.

The Emperor of Russia has presented a brooch with the Imperial Eagle in diamonds to Mrs. Langley, in recognition of her services while nursing the wounded sailors from H.M. cruiser *Variag*. The services were rendered in 1903-04, during the Russo-Japanese war, when Mrs. Langley, at the time Miss Georgina Franklin, was a Sister at the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, and the *Variag* was the first ship blown up at Chemulpo.