

willing to pay and give their time would be equal to the demand?—I quite think so. The last year I was at St. Bartholomew's I had one thousand five hundred letters of inquiry. I do not call them applications; they were not absolutely applications, but letters of inquiry for, say, fifty vacancies. Out of that number I believe I could have selected a sufficient number of Probationers who themselves or their parents would have felt a sufficient amount of responsibility with regard to their futures to induce them to pay a certain amount of money for their training and Nursing education."

As perhaps many of our readers are unaware of the organisation of a medical school, it may be well to explain that in connection with the twelve large General Hospitals in London, and with a few in the Provinces, in Scotland, and in Ireland, there are separate medical colleges or schools, managed as a rule only by the members of the Medical Staff of the Hospital, although in some instances conjoined with these are some members of the lay Committee. The college is usually a building close to the Hospital, in many cases built with the funds of the Institution. It is superintended by a gentleman termed the Dean, Secretary or Warden, according to the custom of each place, to whom the maintenance of discipline, the arrangement of lectures and classes, and the control over the Students is confided. The Students pay for their four years' Medical education a sum which varies from one hundred and thirty guineas at one London school, to about £80 or £90 at some provincial Hospitals. In addition to this they are charged for special tuition and dissection, and large fees by the various examining bodies. Finally, when they have obtained their qualification to practise, they are called upon to pay £5 to the General Medical Council for its Registration. In return for these disbursements they receive theoretical instruction by lectures and classes in the Medical College, and practical experience by clinical study in the Hospital Wards and Out-patient Rooms. But during their term of pupilage—and within the last few months this has been raised from four to five years—they have also to meet the expenses of board and lodging and so forth. So that it is ordinarily calculated that each London Medical Student costs his parents or guardians from £800 to £1,000 before he is able to commence the practice of his profession. The fees paid to the medical school are expended in maintaining the College and in remunerating the lecturers and clinical teachers; those to the examining bodies, chiefly in fees to examiners; and those to the General Medical Council, in the manifold charges incidental to the work of Registration.

The medical student as dresser or clinical clerk, or, when qualified, as house physician, surgeon, or accoucheur, naturally performs work for his Hospital which is essential to the care of the patients, and not only performs it gratuitously, but pays certain fees to be allowed to do so. Such, in brief, is the pecuniary aspect of medical education. So soon as any legal qualification is obtained, the practitioner, however, has the free right to ask what reasonable fees he pleases for his professional advice, and, if he be registered, the law assists him, if necessary, to obtain payment. If he chooses to bind himself to another medical man as an assistant or as a partner, he can at least claim to be treated upon a social equality with his senior, and that their agreement be made legally binding upon both. If he commences to practise on his own account, he is a free agent; and so long as he conforms to the spirit as well as to the letter of the strict code of medical ethics, he can work as he pleases, and where he chooses, throughout the Queen's dominions.

How different the condition of Nursing education has hitherto been, and now is, needs no pointing out. The features, however, to which we desire to draw attention are that the vast improvement which has taken place within the last thirty years in the status and the education of medical men in England has entirely arisen since the institution of their legal Registration and control as a professional body. But at the same time the inevitable result has been to make their education more expensive in direct proportion to its greater comprehensiveness. And from this we argue that the effect of the Registration of Nurses must be gradually to raise the standard of their training, and at the same time to draw into the profession educated gentlewomen in increasing numbers. Then we imagine that the necessary result of this will be a quiet revolution in the whole condition of Nursing education.

The writing is on the wall. The old things are passing away and giving place to new in the Nursing world. The age of Sairey Gamp has vanished; the era of the opinionated ignoramus whose housemaid's head was turned by finding herself trusted and of importance is rapidly passing away. And the day has dawned when gentlewomen, not only here and there, but everywhere, will always be found in the Nurse's place, demanding thorough training, doing thorough work; increasingly trusted by the public as friends and helpers, and by the medical profession as skilled assistants. How the revolution may take place, so far as their education is concerned, we will endeavour to point out upon another occasion.

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