

would give a greater sense of confidence in the work and tend to temper a swelled-headedness, so often the half-brother of ignorance, with a very necessary element of caution.

The speaker concluded by a quotation from Dr. Stretch Dowse's lectures on massage and electricity: "I am confident that if massage is to take its place as a therapeutic agent its manipulations must be carried out by those skilled and practised in its use; but there must be a system and a science in everything, and the treatment of disease by massage in a perfunctory way, without a complete systematic knowledge, simply leads and gets the whole thing into discredit, and unfortunately involves those who have associated their names with it."

Acknowledging a vote of thanks for his address, Dr. Hawkes remarked that the back of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses needed a good deal of stiffening. It was not making the fight it should. More masseuses were coming into the field than were required, and as the medical profession had raised its standard from three to five years, so the masseuses trained should be limited, and the standard raised, through a Central Governing Body with adequate powers of control.

SOME HINTS ON TRAINING NURSES IN MASSAGE.

The last paper of the afternoon was read by Mrs. Hoghton Stewart, I.S.T.M., who advocated a six to eight months' course with the whole of the day devoted to work—a good workman's eight hours. Every minute was required, and last, but most important of all, the practice. With this the hand gradually adapted and moulded itself more and more, the touch got nearer and nearer perfection, more comfortable, softer, firmer, deeper. In this respect it was almost impossible for a nurse still carrying on her often already heavy duties in her ward to compete with others who had the whole day before them, and also, added to this, her poor hands were hard with the use of disinfectants. Was it to be wondered at when she failed?

Method of Training.—Besides the usual routine work, it was most important that during the latter part of the training the student should have practical work at the hospital or infirmary under medical or other suitable supervision.

Teachers.—The speaker was of opinion that the teacher must be born, not made. You could not pick out any nurse promiscuously and send her in a cut-and-dried way without any previous knowledge of her capabilities in that direction. It was often owing to this little oversight that you would have a whole batch of nurses fail in their examination and would wonder why.

Professor Behring gave an account recently at the Medical Congress at Wiesbaden of a new antidote to diphtheria. It consists of a mixture of diphtheria toxin and anti-toxin which, in contrast with the old Behring serum, is completely harmless and is more lasting in its effects.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

CAMEO LIFE SKETCHES.

Mrs. Marion Holmes has just added to the series of Cameo Life Sketches of eminent women, which she writes with such skill, the story of the life of Frances Mary Buss. It is published by the Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., price 3d., a price which brings it within reach of all, and no doubt Miss Buss' many friends and former pupils at the North London Collegiate School for Girls will appreciate the opportunity of possessing so excellently-written a history of her life and work. As with all pioneers, courage, tenacity, self-sacrifice were required of her, and were not found wanting. When in 1870 some of her personal friends agreed to form a trust, so as to turn her private school into a public school for girls "she handed over to them the result of her twenty years' labours to be held by them for the public good. There were at that time 200 pupils at the North London Collegiate School for Ladies; the school was her own private property; all the income it produced was her own. She was under no supervision as regards her work; she had perfect liberty to work out her own theories in what way and for as long as she might please. Put into plain language, her gift amounted to this: after being all her life her own mistress, she put herself under rule; in addition to this loss of personal freedom she risked a certain income, and gave herself freely and gladly to the labour of a new organization, with its anxiety, struggles, and all the chances of failure that ever lie in wait for any departure from the beaten track."

Strange as it may seem in these days, "there was a good deal of prejudice against the idea of a public school for girls, involving as it did a mixture of different social grades, and other innovations that were regarded as most undesirable. The fees under the new trust were calculated to meet current expenses only; the building was to be provided from other funds as was done in boys' public schools, but while £60,000 could be obtained at one meeting for boys' education, it took three years of anxious and untiring effort to raise £700 for the sisters of the boys. Self-sacrifice was called for and Miss Buss, who had already made over as a free gift all the furniture and school plant which she had acquired for her own school, now cheerfully sacrificed her salary to be used for working expenses, and to meet the inevitable risks of the transition period took boarders into her own house." It is scarcely possible to imagine a greater sacrifice than that of the surrender of personal liberty of action.

It is interesting to learn that "Josephine Butler," published in the same series, has reached the tenth edition, and the sketches of "Elizabeth Fry," "Florence Nightingale" and "Lydia Becker" have gone into three and four reprints. They are being sold practically for the benefit of the Woman Suffrage movement.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)