

and night, strong convictions, and liberty of speech.

But one thing I found at St. Bartholomew's in 1881; a splendid nursing spirit, which directly inspired the forceful work for humanity of the strong, self-respecting, experienced women then crowding into nursing ranks—and it was carefully fostered as an inestimable asset. It was that spirit which soon placed the Nursing School in the very front rank of nursing progress. Here was no government of helot by centurion. Full scope in each degree was given for individual effort, and full credit for the result. The School was striving and growing all the time. Never once do I remember the downing of my ardent spirit by a cold douche of official rectitude. What I thought right to do I was permitted to do. This was the unwritten law, and the result may be left to history, when the story of trained nursing in England is told in detail.

This tradition of honourable respect for the conscience of the worker was handed on to my successor. How delicately she handled it, and how she rose year by year in the respect and affections of her colleagues need not here be repeated. Her twenty-three years' record of glorious human endeavour, and all that she did to encourage in those who worked with her the true nursing spirit, and its inspired result, fine intelligent work for the community, is a sacred heritage of the Nursing Profession as a whole—something far too potent to confine within the barred gates of wood and stone of one institution.

With the approval of the Committee, sisters and nurses were encouraged to think. For the general good of their profession they were wisely permitted to act.

Thus were the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital served, well served, by a body of women, whose loyalty and devotion to duty have never been excelled.

To the question of Registration—that is, the organization of their work by the State for the benefit of the public—the nurses gave conscientious study, and their convictions were on many occasions recorded in favour of such legislation. And why not? No one has ever advanced one single valid reason against such reform. Indeed, the Legislatures of 44 Countries and States have enacted laws for the Registration of Trained Nurses—and all since the year 1891.

Thus whilst the Committees of other London Hospitals, notably those of the London and St. Thomas', have for years denied to their nursing staffs the right of free action, the atti-

tude of that of St. Bartholomew's Hospital has been an example to the hospital world.

This just attitude towards women workers was, however, bitterly resented by the more autocratic men and their officials, who govern the London Hospital with irresponsible power. The Nurses' Registration Bill passed the House of Lords in 1908. It was high time for official tyranny to assert itself.

Bart.'s must be brought to heel.

Next week we will consider the tactics which have made it possible for the autocrats of the London Hospital to attempt to enforce an anti-Registration Ukase, through their Pro-Consul at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

E. G. F.

(To be Continued.)

PRACTICAL POINTS.

Sterilization of Rubber Gloves.

A German contemporary gives the following as the most economical and efficient method of sterilising rubber gloves without injuring them. The gloves are washed in running water and dried after using. In the evening they are placed in a 5-1,000 solution of sulphuric acid and left for ten or twelve hours, after which they are rinsed in salt solution and are then ready for use.

Whooping-Cough.

The Journal of the American Medical Association states that Dr. Galish has noticed that the course of whooping-cough is more severe when several children have it together than when the child is kept apart from other children with it. The sight of others affected certainly aggravates the nervous element in the disease, and the possibility of a new infection from it cannot be positively excluded. He thinks that repeated infection is a possible factor in keeping up coryza as well as whooping-cough. In both affections he is confident that much would be gained by measures to prevent accumulation of disease products, having the child go into a second room and well ventilating the first, after each coughing spasm, using a fresh handkerchief each time in coryza.

Even foods produce Eruptions.

The Medical Standard says a number of foods may produce an eruption, especially in those individuals who have an idiosyncrasy for certain articles of diet. Acid fruits may cause an acute eczema. Strawberries frequently produce urticaria. Close observers have said that apples sometimes produce an acneiform efflorescence about the mouth. Walnuts cause an inflammation of the mucous membrane of the mouth. Shellfish and salt meats often cause a hivelike eruption.

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