

suitable for workhouse nursing. No better standard can be defined than that demanded by Florence Nightingale: "Let not the best go, but the very best." That advice is as necessary to-day as it was when given. When Agnes Jones' memorial was written, Miss Nightingale appealed to the women of England to raise a living monument to her memory: her words are these, "Let us bring the work of our hands, our heads, and our hearts, to finish the work God has so blessed. Let her not merely 'rest in peace,' but let hers be the life which stirs up to fight the good fight against vice and sin, misery and wretchedness, as she did. The call to arms she was ever obeying.

"The Son of God goes forth to war,  
Who follows in His train?"

"O! daughter of God, are there so few to answer?"

The workhouse nurses in Ireland are supplied principally from the Dublin training schools. The success of the workhouse nurse, or otherwise, depends first on the class of woman she is; secondly, on her training. When we hear anything for or against a workhouse nurse, we at once ask where she was trained. She should be a woman of refined feeling, resourcefulness, full of enthusiasm, a lover of humanity, one who will encourage and help the younger patients to try and get back the hope they may have lost, and do what she can to keep them from drifting from the hospital to the workhouse, and encourage them to face life again bravely. The workhouse hospital is the only home the aged will ever know, therefore they should be tenderly and patiently nursed, and their surroundings made as homelike as possible.

There are innumerable possibilities for doing good, such as never comes in the way of the nurse in a general hospital. I know of no pleasure as great as that of nursing a patient back to health from some acute form of disease; but there is far greater virtue displayed in the patient nursing of the chronic and incurable cases, these cases are in the majority in the city workhouses, therefore our workhouse nurses must be ideal nurses to be successful.

Every one is agreed that workhouse nursing demands the very best obtainable, and indeed every branch of nursing, district nursing, school nursing, private nursing, makes a similar demand, which indicates the necessity for conditions which will attract and hold a high type of women for the nursing profession.

## COLONIAL NURSING ASSOCIATION.

By kind permission of the Matrons of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and the Glasgow Western Infirmary, the Secretary of the Colonial Nursing Association addressed the Nurses on August 25th and 26th, on the subject of "Nursing in the Colonies." A brief outline was given of the work of the Association, including such points as the conditions, qualifications, salaries, &c. Special mention was made of the characteristics required in the making of a successful Colonial Nurse. The Address was listened to with very great interest, and at its close, applications were received from many of the Nurses present.

## THE NURSE AND HER CRITICS.

### A MEDICAL OPINION.

*The Medical Press and Circular* says on the subject of nurses:—

We are quite used to nurses. In our student days they were common objects of the hospitals we used to walk, and after we had recovered from the primary fascination of frill-less femininity, we realised that they were people who could do things. We now think of them as handy things to have about our patients' houses. Our relationship to them is clear. Like the centurion, we say "Do this," and she doeth it. So do the rest of the household. We are autocrats, and they must obey. We forget that our subordinates act and interact on each other. The status of nurse to patient's family is a peculiar one. It is like the doctor's, in that each renders personal service for pay, while the employer is under the control of the employed. Doctors were once ranked a little lower than body servants, but have raised themselves by improving their standard of work till it was out of reach of the menials. So with nurses. A few years ago they were below the maids, and recognition of their attainments does not come in a flash. They, too, like any doctor, must turn their hands to the lowliest work in humble homes. And so we find their function often misunderstood of the people, who are apt to use them like dictionaries—consulted and bowed down to when information and help is wanted, and then shut up and put back in their place. It is for us to see that this does not happen if we can help it, as the net result is not one calculated to help our patient, but people take a great deal of educating before they are fit to have a sick person in the house. The ideal nurse is much more easily achieved; the trouble with her is that as soon as she approaches perfection someone realises it and marries her.

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