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## EDITORIAL.

### THE PLACE OF THE TRAINED NURSE IN SOCIAL RECLAMATION.

Miss Donaldson, the Matron of Mount Vernon Hospital for Tuberculosis, writes with much feeling and reason in *Wings*, the organ of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, on the Social Reclamation of the victims of alcoholic intemperance, and the place of the Trained Nurse in the scheme. The hideous problem of the destitution and poverty, the disease and misery, intemperance brings in its train, compels every true man and woman to face the problem, and to respond to the call to work for its immediate solution. This call comes up from wretched homes, where infancy is cradled in ill-health and physical neglect; from schools and streets where childhood is forming habits and gaining interests that will dominate the future national life; from industrial centres and workshops where stunted bodies, dwarfed minds and distorted and arrested characters are manufactured in their thousands.

The drinking habit denudes men and women of the essential features of civilization; the brute nature is exposed, the animal passions unrestrained, the natural instincts reversed. Miss Donaldson claims that there is hardly a single disease in which alcohol does not play some part, and says the disease of tuberculosis is a notable example.

Facts such as these, which can be multiplied to an appalling degree, should speak most forcibly to every member of the nursing profession. For what vantage-ground for social service can compare with that occupied by the trained nurse to-day? Tremendous are both the opportunities and responsibilities lying ready to our hand in

our daily work and routine. Every department of civic and social work in the community to-day has its sphere for the trained nurse; every rank of society, and every class comes under her influence, either in her public or private capacity. She can gather facts and figures regarding social degradation and the evils of intemperance which few social workers can reach, and moreover she is trusted and beloved.

Miss Donaldson considers, therefore, that "our best weapons with which, as nurses, to fight the Drink Traffic and so bring about the social reclamation of our country, are personal conviction, enthusiasm, and careful study. Our object is so to influence public opinion as to secure the passing of those righteous measures which the need of the hour demands. For Temperance Reform is to be brought about by legislation as well as by moral suasion. Legislation becomes absolutely essential in any great movement; it makes permanent the results of moral persuasion.

"But legislation can only restrict, it cannot eradicate insobriety. The nation's inner life is beyond the scope of human statutes. It is not sufficient to make new laws; there must be new men and women. It means, therefore, that no substitute for personal service can effectively solve the problem.

"If the nursing profession, pleads Miss Donaldson, as a whole, will rise up in response to this call, the golden age lies before us. What we need is a new sense of National Brotherhood, a new spring of the spirit of membership one with another, a new joy and pride in the community, a new Civic Passion. We need a more personal feeling for the State, a kindlier attitude towards the responsibilities it imposes, and a more exalted sense of its spiritual meaning. If the spirit of brotherhood were fulfilled in daily life, this generation could

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