

In the discussion that followed, no clear way out of the difficulty was found, the difficulty being one of economics.

It was refreshing to hear in these days, when tyranny is not yet a thing of the past, that in a certain hospital where a nurse was treated unjustly, the whole body of nurses rallied round her, and asked for redress, which was granted! This excellent example might be copied with advantage by many others.

After a vote of thanks, proposed from the chair, had been carried, and responded to by the lecturer, the all-sustaining cup of tea was provided by the kind hostesses.

A MISSIONARY NURSE'S EQUIPMENT.

At the last of the October course of Lectures, arranged by the Missionary Nurses' League, the chair was taken by Howard Barrett, Esq., F.R.C.S., who, after stating that in his opinion no missionary nurse can possibly be too well equipped from the medical point of view, spoke on the subject of consecration. He said that many excellent nurses, who are irreproachable as nurses, would be no possible use for work abroad, because they are automatic in all they do, and either have no sympathy or do not show it. Creeds do not matter so much, but those who leave behind them a track of beautiful gracious actions will never be forgotten.

In his lecture Dr. Wills, of Central China, dealt with the subject of a missionary nurse's equipment. He first of all dwelt upon the necessity of every missionary being absolutely sure that he or she is really sent. In many a difficult place, as for example in his own experience, when the house was surrounded by rebels and the bullets pattered on the walls, there was nothing to help one but the certainty that God had sent one. In his station the nearest Englishmen are one fifty miles on one side, another sixty miles, another seventy, and another one hundred on the other sides. It needs a strong certainty of one's vocation in such a place. He urged all missionaries, too, to be absolutely regular in their habits of Bible study.

With regard to the scope of a nurse in China, it varied very greatly according to the place, whether it was city or country. There were many things in the habits of the country which made it very difficult for a lady to be matron of a men's hospital; but in his part of the country there was a vast field of usefulness in midwifery work alone. He had found that the Chinese men whom he had taught were excellent pupils, and he adopted the plan of teaching one thing at a time thoroughly, as for example, the administration of chloroform. He had performed almost every kind of operation, on brain, abdomen, lungs, eyes, &c., and his Chinese helpers had never had an accident over giving the chloroform. In closing, he considered that a very great sphere lies open to women who will go out, and especially in midwifery, instruct Chinese women.

HIGHER THOUGHT AMONG NURSES.

At the Annual Meeting of the Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League (Hendon Branch), held at the Hendon Infirmary, Miss Beatrice Kent gave a most interesting address on "Higher Thought Among Nurses."

After a brief outline sketch of the modern history of nursing, showing the phenomenal growth of the work of trained nurses, with special stress upon the social side of it, she said:—

Now when one solemnly reflects upon the enormous value to the nation of all these public health agencies, what is the dominant thought in one's mind? Is it not this?—the recognition of the essential fact of the sacredness of human life; and life without health is imperfect. Health is a birthright, it is the gift of "the Lord and Giver of life."

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Hitherto we have conceived of the potentialities of trained and skilled nursing, but now we are aspiring after the actualities—a higher stage in evolution. Nurses of the present day have a much greater knowledge of the evil in the world than those of the past, and I take it that with wider knowledge of existing evil comes the stronger, more fervent and insistent aspiration to abolish it. We nurses of to-day are aware that much of the sickness with which we deal is due to the infection of venereal disease in some form or other, so most of it is preventible. We are up against that terrible fact, and another—that in spite of all the public health agencies that I have enumerated, *these* preventible diseases are still not prevented. We have all heard of the Women's Movement. It simply means, in the ultimate resort, *higher thought among women*, the aspiration of women to make our country cleaner, healthier, happier.

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We cannot calmly go on looking at this great mass of misery and amazing miscarriage of justice in many directions without wishing for greater power to deal with it more effectually. Although very many women are asking for the Parliamentary vote, believe me that none of us care about the vote as such; we regard it merely as a symbol of the power which we desire to possess in order to prevent evil and to promote good. In other words, we want the power of *direct* influence on the legislators, to pass better and more just laws and to repeal bad ones, in the interest of public health and morals.

After reference to the numerous excellent laws passed in countries where women have the vote, Miss Kent said:—

All this affects the work of nurses, because it affects the nation's health. We can hardly touch upon any question of social reform that does not affect the work of nurses, from the aspect either of prevention or cure.

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There is a beautiful expression in a well-known

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