

all there is the pressure of the material facts of life. Thus one of the great demands on modern women is to hold up before the world the Christian ideal of purity, unselfishness, sympathy, peace, and to add to these new qualities of courage, justice, large-mindedness and loyalty, to meet the new conditions of life.

(4) This, then, is the fourth point, that the demand of the age is for people with great souls, that can shine through all the daily routine of life and not be quenched by it. The only secret of doing this is the simple old secret, to sit at the feet of our Lord. The secret is our inner life, and for this we need to fix our thought, not on our efforts to realise God's presence, but on His response, and His coming near to us.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman, Miss A. C. Gibson (formerly Matron of Birmingham Infirmary) spoke of the great need for the nursing profession to get back the sense of vocation. Behind every bit of daily work must be a love of our fellow creatures which will fill the whole life with a sense of service. As Florence Nightingale had once said to her, "No woman is a good nurse unless she is first a good woman."

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### NURSING EDUCATION.

In the last decade many hospitals have added a fourth year to the contract of training and service of probationers, but few have reorganised the curriculum of training so that the fourth year exacted shall recompense the nurse by providing definite instruction in special work. The School of Nursing attached to the Auckland Hospital, New Zealand, in extending the term of training to four years, proposes to include instruction in massage and maternity nursing in its curriculum. A special report presented by the medical committee of the Hospital Committee sets forth a course of instruction for the newly constituted fourth year of training, and incidentally dealt with the question of reorganisation.

"Hitherto," it proceeded, "a nurse has spent three years in training. In 1910 the Board decreed that the course should be extended to four years, as from January 1st, 1911. All probationers entering the hospital since that date have accordingly signed on for four years. It remains for the Board to provide for them a syllabus of instruction.

The committee then proceeded to discuss the syllabus of instruction for the fourth year. As an adequate course of instruction they recommended: (1) Massage and electricity; (2) maternity nursing; and (3) hospital nursing administration. The first subject, the committee suggested, should extend over a course of six months. Concerning the

maternity course, it was suggested that no better school for training could be found than St. Helens Hospital, but that institution was unable to cater for the District Hospital nurses, its special mission being to train as maternity nurses women whose services would, as a rule, be available for the wives of the wage-earning community, and for settlers' wives in sparsely-populated districts. At present the highly-trained medical and surgical nurse had to go elsewhere from Auckland to acquire a certificate for maternity nursing.

"This," the report continued, "is an anomaly which should not exist. It means that the more favourably placed woman is in life the greater difficulty she has in obtaining skilled nursing assistance in her hour of need. We, therefore, strongly urge that a ward in the Hospital be set aside for maternity cases, and suggest ward 16 as one suitable, and recommend that a surgeon be placed in charge of the ward. The course of training for nurses therein should be six months, during which they should attend a course of lectures delivered by the obstetric surgeon."

Under the head of hospital nursing administration the committee suggested a comprehensive three-months' course of instruction by the matron, a three-months' course of instruction by the dispenser in pharmacy and simple compounding, and a three months' course in office routine and housekeeping. Out of the three groups of subjects nurses should only be required to take two, and they might be allowed to elect which two to take.

"The modern-trained nurse," the report proceeded, "is the product of four years of strenuous theoretical and practical work. The medical profession has played a prominent part in this evolution of a new profession. It has freely and gratuitously planned and directed the general scheme of training. It is doubtful, however, whether this arrangement, begun in the childhood of the nursing profession, can continue now that the child has grown up. Moreover, the system has outlived its usefulness, and has some serious objections. Teaching is an art in itself. An able practitioner is not necessarily a good teacher. Also he may even dislike teaching, but under the honorary system would be obliged to take his turn."

The committee recommended (1) that permanent lecturers in the various subjects be appointed; (2) that these be selected from past and present visiting staffs; (3) that the lecturer and another appointed by the Board act as examiners in each subject; (4) that lecturers and examiners receive honoraria for their services; (5) that nurses from accredited private hospitals be allowed to attend on payment of fees; (6) that arrangements be made whereby, for prescribed fees, nurses possessing recognised general medical and surgical certificates might enter the hospital, attend the special fourth-year groups, sit for examinations, and, if successful, receive the board's special certificate. In conclusion the committee mentioned that in drawing up their report they had had the assistance of the medical superintendent. (Dr. Maguire) and of the lady superintendent (Miss Orr).

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