

nerve, keen observation, unbounded patience, a calm collected mind, a very large amount of sympathy, and above all—common sense. She had heard a true gentlewoman described as “a woman who will render the most unpleasant services, with a pleasant manner.”

A doctor (said the speaker), came into her office lately, for a nurse for an old gentleman, who rebelled at having one. The nurse and patient became the best of friends. When he recovered, he was unwilling to let her go, and wrote, “She was irresistible as a Dreadnought, a terror to evil-doers, but a praise to them that do well.”

Miss Rough concluded by saying that she had the true interests of nurses at heart, and her ambition was that as private nurses they might prove themselves sunbeams in every household to which they might be called.

The Chairman, in moving a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers for their interesting papers, said that though she was not a nurse she was very interested in nursing questions. She thought we might congratulate ourselves on living in the twentieth century when so much was being done.

A vote of thanks to Lady Eglinton for her kindness in presiding, moved by Miss Gregory Smith, was carried by acclamation.

EVENING SESSION.

Lady Stirling Maxwell, who presided at the Evening Session on Tuesday, said that the Conference concerned nurses, but it was also of interest to lay persons. She had wondered whether it would not be interesting to nurses to hear a paper contributed by a patient—not a cranky one. She believed from the patient's point of view it might be instructive.

THE PROGRESS OF FEVER NURSING IN SCOTLAND.

Miss H. G. Landles, Matron of the City of Glasgow Fever Hospital, Ruchill, who presented the first paper, discussed the progress of fever nursing in Scotland and said that a little over fifty years ago there was no provision in Glasgow for fever cases with the exception of beds at the Royal Infirmary for cases of typhus. In 1855 it was considered necessary to erect a temporary fever hospital for typhus cases to accommodate 136 patients. The Superintendent, Dr. J. R. Russell, realized that nothing would make up for the lack of efficient nursing, but few respectable women were willing to take it up. The work offered was in a temporary hospital, therefore not of a permanent nature, and it was infectious.

The class availing were mostly drinking, slatternly women, widows, or servants out of place and if a young woman took to nursing from choice, her relations were at some pains to conceal her address.

The authorities felt that under the circumstances the dietary should be generous but it certainly was not extravagant, the allowance being for nurses, 3s. 11d.; for scrubbers, 4s. 11d.; and,

for porters, 5s. 6d. a week. The most successful nurses were those who had been in the wards as patients and had recovered from typhus.

In 1875, Mrs. Sinclair, Matron at Belvidere, working with the Superintendent, Dr. Allen, was able to obtain better conditions for the nursing staff, who, up to that time, took their meals in the wards, and so to secure a better grade of nurses.

In 1900 the Sisters in the infectious hospitals were required to have a certificate of general as well as of fever training. There was no further change till 1912, when the Local Government Board issued a scheme for the training and certification of fever nurses. A Preliminary Examination in general knowledge was required of those who did not possess a leaving certificate, and five hours each week for seven months was devoted to the instruction of probationers. It was suggested by some Matrons that the higher standard required would limit the supply of probationers, but the speaker had not found this to be the case. She hoped before long to see a system of reciprocal training established between the general and fever hospitals. She did not consider the difficulties insurmountable if viewed from a broad standpoint and not from that of the good of each individual hospital.

NURSING IN ASYLUMS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO FEMALE NURSING ON THE MALE SIDE.

Miss Thyne, Matron of West House, Morningside, Edinburgh, presented a most interesting paper on the above subject, showing the inconceivable brutality with which insane patients were formerly treated, as for instance, by the “bath of surprise,” a bath concealed under a trap door through which the patient suddenly fell, the fright being supposed to bring him to his senses. Another method was the rotatory chair into which the patient was strapped, the rapid circular movement causing severe sickness and diarrhoea.

The word asylum signified a place of refuge, but the mad-houses of former times were degraded into places of torture. Pinel was the first (in 1792) to take the chains off some fifty patients in an asylum in Paris, and had it not been for the devotion of one of the patients thus liberated following him about, and protecting him, his life would have been endangered through the anger of the citizens.

Miss Thyne strongly advocated the employment of female nursing on the male side of asylums. After a varied experience she considers this method absolutely justified, and infinitely prefers nursing male insane patients to female. She contended that female nurses can work on the male side in mental hospitals, even in the acute male wards with marked benefit to the patients, and also demonstrated that the discipline must be extremely good, and that could only be obtained by having a woman of better education, better social standing, and wider training in the nursing

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