

It was naughty, but Youth can be very cruel to Age.

But I pondered on these things.

I put away the white satin and its dainty transparencies, in spite of its protest that it was a very simple and innocent garment.

At the next Christmas Party I wore a very demure black silk gown, uniform cut, a well-goffered cap, and fine lawn cuffs and collar. It was strictly professional. It became recognised as 'Matron's evening uniform.' In the picture you may see how *comme-il-faut* two of my pupils appeared in it—"

The Modern Matron sighed.

"*Autres temps autres mœurs*—but I think the nurses' instinct for white wear is a true one—it is symbolical of so many things," she remarked, handing me back the photograph.

E. G. F.

### THE TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

At the recent Conference of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, held at Bombay, it was proposed, and passed with acclamation, that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick be invited to accept Honorary Membership of the Association, which may be offered to Nurses who have rendered valuable services to the cause of Nursing.

S. GRACE TINDALL,

*Hon. Sec. T.N.A.I.*

Needless to say, this honour has been accepted with sincere appreciation. To be an Hon. Member of the National Associations of American, German, Irish, and India's Nurses "for services rendered" is, in Mrs. Fenwick's opinion, ample compensation for all the work for the organization of the Nursing Profession at large which has been attempted, and which has met with such signal success, owing to splendid support of so many nursing leaders through the International Council of Nurses, at home and abroad.

### THE PASSING OF A GOOD QUEEN.

The passing of Her Majesty Queen Sophia, the Queen-Dowager of Sweden, removes a personality who has always taken the deepest interest in the care of the sick, and in the training of educated women as nurses. With this object she founded the Sophia-Hemmet, the principal training home for nurses in Sweden. Her Majesty was for many years a subscriber to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and took a great interest in nursing organization, an interest extended to the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in London in 1909.

## STATUS OF THE NURSE IN THE WORKING WORLD.\*

By LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

I have taken the liberty of altering two words in the title of my paper, so as to call it "The Relation of the Nurse to the Working World," for in considering the "status" of the nurse I did not feel clear what there was to say upon it, as her status in the world of work is assuredly one of unceasing change, growth, development. But as to her relative position to other workers in the world of work, it seems to me there is something for us all to study with some seriousness.

That the nurse is a worker no one can deny. However high professionally she may build her career, however distinguished and noble she may make it (and we all feel, thankfully, that the nature of our work sets no limits in these directions), she is still closely related to the world of workers whom we may call toilers. In this we may, if we will, see her most shining merit, for all those who think are now acknowledging that the labour of the world is the supreme service, and those who labour are the only real benefactors of society.

But there are still many who do not think, and they still need to be taught to see the dignity, value, and essential nobility of work—the indispensable work which makes it possible for a civilisation to arise—and to learn that parasitic idleness is the deepest disgrace of a modern human being. To help impress this lesson is an incidental part of our duty, imposed upon us involuntarily by our relation to the world of work. To teach it we need to know something more than many of us now know about that surrounding world. Krapotkin says that every specialist or expert ought to know enough of the work of other specialists or experts to understand and sympathise with what they have to do. And this is true for us. A vast field of human work and striving with which we are closely, though unknowingly, related, is the field of trades unionism. I remember well when my own ignorance of what the labour movement was and what it meant to humanity was profound and illimitable. I hope no other nurse is so uninformed, but I fear there are some who may be so. Life in the Settlement gave me the opportunity to learn what the labour movement was, with its yearning aspirations for a higher life and its

\* Paper presented at the sixteenth annual convention of the American Nurses' Association.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)