

of remedial treatment. Facilities for this treatment—which at present is not to be obtained even in great towns, still less in rural areas—must be provided at no great distance from the children's homes, and without penalizing the mothers by making them lose work in taking the children to and from the centres. Here, again, it should be remembered that the distinction between children under five and children over five years of age, though cardinal from the educational point of view, finds no support whether on physiological or pathological grounds. The conditions of health at the two periods may differ in minor respects, but for the most part they are the same, and it is difficult to see from the medical point of view what good purpose can be obtained by placing the health of children under the care of different authorities at different times. A continuous medical supervision, starting before birth, extending over the whole of childhood, and retained under the same control throughout, is much to be preferred on the score of medical efficiency.

### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE TO HER NURSES.

A collection of letters, "Florence Nightingale to her Nurses," has been published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., price 1s. They are a selection from Miss Nightingale's Addresses to probationers and nurses of the Nightingale School at St. Thomas' Hospital. These letters, which cover the period from 1872 to 1879, with the 1888 letter included, and have been collected by Mrs. Vaughan Nash, were usually read aloud by Sir Harry Verney, Chairman of the Nightingale Fund, in the presence of the probationers and nurses, and a printed copy, or a lithographed facsimile of the manuscript was given to each nurse present. A few also were written for the Nightingale nurses serving in Edinburgh.

From these characteristic letters we quote as follows:—

"Conceit and nursing cannot exist in the same person any more than new patches on an old garment."

"I would try to be learning every day to the last hour of my life. 'And when his legs were cutt off, He fought upon his stumps,' says the ballad; so when I could no longer learn by nursing others, I would learn by being nursed, by seeing nurses practise upon me. It is all experience."

"I have been in positions of authority myself, and have always tried to remember that to use such an advantage inconsiderately is—

cowardly. To be sharp upon them is worse in me than in them to be sharp upon me. No one can trample upon others and govern them. To win them is half, I might say the whole, secret of 'having charge.' If you find your way to their hearts, you may do what you like with them; and that authority is the most complete which is least perceived or asserted."

"Mere worldly success to any nobler, higher mind is not worth having. Do you think Agnes Jones, or some who are now living amongst us, cared much about worldly success? They cared about efficiency, thoroughness, but that is a different thing."

"May I pay ourselves even the least little compliment, as to our being a little less conceited than last year? Were we not as conceited in 1872 as it was possible to be? You shall tell. Are we in 1873 rather less so? . . . Would that this could be a 'secret' among us! But, unfortunately, our name is 'up' and 'abroad' for conceit. And has it not even been said ('tell it not in Gath'): 'And these conceited "Nightingale" women scarcely know how to read and write'?"

"Now let no one look to see our blushes. But shall we not get rid of this which makes us ridiculous as fast as we can?"

### ASSOCIATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF NURSING HOMES.

The Provisional Committee of the above Society met at 132, Harley Street, W., upon the invitation of Mrs. Stabb, on Friday, 17th inst., with most encouraging results. Thirty-eight superintendents of Nursing Homes were elected members, and it is hoped that the number may be doubled at a future meeting. Now that such an excellent start has been made, others should come forward, that a really representative and strong association may be formed. Mrs. Stabb will be pleased to forward all information and application forms to Superintendents who may wish to know more about the association, and ladies other than those working in London are eligible and will be welcomed as members.

#### LIST OF MEMBERS.

The following ladies were elected on the 17th inst. :—Miss Bristow, Miss Bedford, Miss Brailsford, Miss Brandon, Miss F. Bailey, Miss Clements, Miss Cannan, Miss Carlin, Miss Chittock, Miss Coulson, Miss Crozier, Miss Davies, Mrs. Frankau, Miss Helen Flint, Miss Fletcher, Miss Fowler, Miss Gordon, Mrs. Louise Hunt, Miss Holder, Miss Habgood, Mrs. Hill, Miss Alice Hare, Miss Johnson, Miss Lancaster, Miss Lightfoot, Miss Lloyd, Miss Myers, Miss Macpherson, the Misses Phillips, Mrs. Robertson, Miss Rowell, Miss Slade, Miss Shepherd, Mrs. A. F. Stabb (Chairman of Association), Miss Thompson, Miss Underhill, Miss Zeglio.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)