

doubly so in hospital life that harmony and singleness of purpose reign. If we hitch two animals to a cart, and one goes east and one goes west, we are not likely to make very rapid progress. You nurses who are located in the large cities in this land are opening up a new road to the Chinese—the profession of nursing. It is you who pave the way for them to follow. Take care that you build well!" Miss Tippet then closed with the story of the rich woman who in a dream made a tour of heaven. "As the angel led her past a beautiful home she curiously enquired, 'And who is to live here?' The angel replied, 'This is being prepared for your carter.' 'Impossible! Why he is a poor, uneducated coolie.' 'I know nothing of that,' replied the angel, 'we have built the house with the materials he has prepared for us.' A little further on the two came to a tiny unattractive hut. 'And whose is this?' 'This is your home,' said the angel sadly. To her protests and claims of wealth and power on earth he replied, 'We have used all the material you have sent us.' The rich woman awakened, rejoicing to find that it was only a dream, and that it was not too late to begin to lay up her inheritance eternal."

A social hour followed, with the serving of tea and cakes by the pupil nurses from the Methodist hospital, after which the members of the Association took rickshas for the Lama and Confucian Temples, sightseeing.

Thursday evening, from eight to ten p.m., the Conference met in united session with the Pekin Medical Association, with Dr. Gray, of the British Legation, in the chair. The officers of the Association had hoped that it might have been possible to present an Address to His Excellency the President at some time during the Conference, but his indisposition prevented this taking place. His representative, Admiral Ts'ai Ting-Kan, was the guest of honour for the evening. A letter of greeting to His Excellency from the Association was read by Miss Hope-Bell, and given to Admiral Ts'ai for presentation to His Excellency. The Admiral then gave a brief address, first conveying to the members of the Association the regrets of the President at not being able to personally extend a welcome to the delegates, and expressing his appreciation of what the nursing profession had already done, and would in the future mean to China. Admiral Ts'ai spoke of the Conference as an "epoch-making event in Peking." He referred with pleasure to the meeting of the Medical Association in the city two years ago, and expressed his delight at now seeing so many of their co-workers, the nurses. "You medical men and women have broken down the bars to our sealed homes, and inspired our men and women to go forth and likewise study for your profession at home and abroad. The doctors shape the policies for the curing and prevention of disease, but it is the nurses who permanently carry out such policies. I feel that I owe the life of my own child to the faithful, intelligent care given by

a good nurse, to say nothing of the care I have received myself at the hands of nurses in times of need."

A paper by Mrs. Lyon, of Tientsin, followed on "District Nursing in China," full of interest to the listeners. This phase of work at present, however, is possible only in the large cities and ports of the country. The interior hospitals, owing to the rigidity of social laws and customs, must needs advance more slowly, even though all are heartily in sympathy with such work, and long for the time when it will be possible to put our nurses out into the homes of the people to a greater degree.

The final paper of the evening was by Miss Hope-Bell of Hankow, on "Some Methods in Teaching Men Nurses," a topic of keen interest to the many engaged in that work. "There are those who think the training of men nurses in China but a temporary expedient until social laws permit women nurses to care for both sexes, but it is hard for some of us who are teaching the boys to feel convinced on that point. Many of them are proving themselves as gentle and capable as their sisters. It is evident, of course, that for the present in many localities men nurses must be used for the male wards. In the port cities, where the customs have been broken down, women nurses are caring for men in a few instances, but this phase can come about but gradually, if at all, in the far interior. The foreign woman superintendent in the interior often finds herself looked upon as a decided innovation, and she has to move cautiously ere she can command the respect of her men nurses and other native co-workers, and thus gain for herself an entrance to the wards."

It is easy enough to give the men lessons in theory, but it is practical nurses who are needed. Miss Hope-Bell finds her "sawdust man" of the greatest value in giving demonstrations. The dummy lends himself to all manner of treatments with perfect good nature, and much can be taught of routine ward work with his aid. A copper or two will secure a small schoolboy as a willing victim for classes in massage or special nursing treatment. Specimens of hearts, eyes, bones and the like may be obtained from the friendly butcher, and these object-lessons are not easily forgotten by pupils.

The danger of teaching too much *materia medica* to the men nurses was warned against, lest they go out and pose for doctors. But there is much to encourage one in the progress made by the male pupils in recent years, and certainly it is encouraging that so many of them are willing to make it their life work, and so can become experienced nurses. "After all, the greatest value lies not in what they have learned in classes, but to what degree they are willing to forget self, and spend themselves in service for others for Christ's sake. One can 'compel them to go one mile,' but it is the voluntary 'second mile' that counts."

(To be concluded.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)