

The first deals with "Ethics" entirely, to which five short chapters are devoted in a systematic classification, such as: "Ethics and Hospital Organization," "Ethics and the Probationary Period," "Ethics and the Student Nurse," "The Student Nurse and Co-Workers." "Talks to Senior Nurses" is the subject of Part II. It would be hard to find a better or more concise definition of ethics than that given by Dr. Richard Cabot: "*Doing what you ought to do.*" In telling Nurses what they ought to do, Miss Parsons does not adopt the didactic method exactly. In the sympathy and understanding which she shows throughout all her "talks," she exhibits rather the spirit of a mother with a deep sense of parental responsibility. Her purpose throughout is to encourage Nurses to realise themselves, in freedom of thought and conscience and speech; to strengthen and develop in every possible way their own characters, and to recognise their obvious and undoubted duties and obligations towards their own training school and the Nursing Profession at large.

"She has her definite rights as well as her definite obligations. There is much that she should respect, but nothing that she need fear, so long as she is entirely honourable in her personal and professional relations. Her soul should be full of courage and aspirations. . . . above all, she must remember that the work needs her own interpretation, initiative, originality, anything but slavish imitation. . . . While in process of training, the Nurse must, of course, use the methods that have been accepted as best, but she must not for a minute suppose that what seems best to-day will necessarily seem best to-morrow, and she must always hope to find some way to adjust and re-adjust what she has been taught to the new conditions in which she will work." The writer's breadth of mind is clearly *felt* as an atmosphere throughout the book. To keep an open mind is the guiding principle upon which she is very insistent. The Massachusetts General Hospital has the honour of being the first in the States where Social Service was established as a definite and essential Department of work. We have had the pleasure of seeing the work of this great Organization, and we are in agreement with Miss Parsons when she says: "This new-old work, now called social service, that is springing up all over the Country, humanizing medical work and counteracting the frigidity of science in its application to the human body, is permeating the hospitals, and its spirit is being gradually absorbed into the nursing structure. Soon it is surely going to be generally recognized as a part of the training-school curriculum." In the chapter on "Qualifications for Executive Work" the writer says: "Every Nurse will naturally plan to join the nurses' alumnae and State associations. (N.B.—Alumnae Associations are equivalent to our Hospital Leagues.) You will, it is hoped, always subscribe for, and read the *American Journal of Nursing*, which is owned

and edited by the American Nurses' Association. . . . Until Nurses manage their own affairs, they cannot hope to develop much business ability, or to win respect as an independent professional body. We gain independence only through experience, and experience costs in time, strength, and money." British Nurses would do well to endorse these remarks in a practical manner.

"In maturing one's self for one's best work," the writer says, "a Nurse should remember that from graduation she should keep abreast of the professional literature, and participate in the professional organizations. If one does not keep up with history in the making, it is difficult to catch up later. Knowing the writer as we do, we are not surprised to find that she gives a wholesome word of advice about criticism:—"Criticism is good for us all; it is wounded vanity that hurts us when criticised, but it stimulates us nevertheless." No point that might add to or hinder a nurse's success is overlooked. It is not too much to say that there is everything in this book to guide, to encourage, to cheer, and to inspire. It is not a large book, and it is printed in clear, moderately large type, and, being essentially intended for the student Nurse, the writer has thoughtfully provided two blank pages at the end of each chapter for the purpose of notes. It ought to be in the hands of every nurse in this country, but as that cannot be, we fear, as it appears only to be published in Boston, we hope to say something more about it in the next issue of this Journal.

B. K.

THE "WELLCOME" PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE RECORD AND DIARY FOR 1917.

A little book which is always a welcome gift at this time of year to the numerous nurses who make a hobby of photography is the Wellcome Photographic Exposure Record and Diary, published by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Ltd., Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C. The title of the opening article in the new edition of his valuable annual is "A Short Guide to Photographic Practice." It is really descriptive of the whole publication which compresses an extraordinary amount of information into a very small space. It deals with every essential phase of photography from exposure to the finished print, and makes the expert advice extremely practical by the provision of really useful tables, and by that simplest of all exposure estimators, the "Wellcome Photographic Exposure Calculator."

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