

MEDICAL WORK.

It was certainly before the days of carefully screened windows, of searchlights, and the sudden extinguishing of light without warning, that the Night Nurse entered her ward of chronics, and quickly made a survey of the ward.

Those were the days of the comforting linseed poultice, of the stuffy and Turkish bath-like steam tent, rows of drugs jostled each other in each bracket over the beds and the era of the tabloid was still in its infancy. What a field of personal assistance the medical ward could be; and let us hope, after these days of worry and trouble, it will once more come in to its own.

The tide of the greatest of all cities carried on its never resting bosom all the jetsam and debris which collected at the Out-patient Department of the mother of all hospitals, and passed them on to the haven of the medical wards.

There was no prospect of a lasting cure, of a wonderful result, of miracles in fact, but the greatest of all reward was given in the wonderful degree of comfort and peace which descended on these poor relics of a busy age.

Which of us have not dearly loved and so sadly missed the dear old heartlady, "Grannie 10," whose worn hand so often held a little country flower—worn, dead, but still bearing its own message—which her small grandchild had picked in the park and brought for her on visiting day? It reminded her of the little village which was once her home before London swallowed her up. That was why her feeble old voice, as the dawn woke, exclaimed in pleasure each morning, even through the pain of her sadly beating heart.

Well, she taught us to be patient in suffering and she taught us much else as well—faith in her treatment, loyalty to those who tended her. Then the poor old thing whose constant "tappings" were quickly wearing her out altogether, who was always cheerful through all her troubles, ready with a joke, so certain if "Nurse would just raise her up a little bit so that she could watch the green light she would be first-rate."

There was none of the excitement of fighting against chance with a really good pneumonia here, no careful watching and constant attendance of the "typhoid" who had got to the stage when he might perforate, but there was a wonderful touch with nature—nature in her failing years, when sorrow and disease had almost extinguished the bright flame of life, when all the little ills dependent on the bigger cause of the disease were so hard to alleviate and comfort; when tales of the "family" now grown up and all away in their different callings in life, were the better for talking over, as also the "old man," who had "gone over" this many a year, who was once so grand and strong, and such a help in the "business."

It was not what one learnt to do for them, poor, crippled, disfigured folk, but what they taught us that mattered at the end of our training.

I wonder did the wise brain which caused the verse to be placed over the entrance to that particular medical school, realize that women as well as men could read and mark and try to fulfil its message:

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might."

M. K. S.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

A MISTAKE ON NURSES REPRESENTATION AT KENSINGTON.

The Poor-Law Officers' Journal, with that perspicuity which makes its readers look forward with so keen a pleasure to the new issue each week, disposes of the fallacy that because the College of Nursing has appointed certain Poor-Law Matrons on its nominated Council this Council therefore includes representation of Poor-Law Nurses. Our contemporary says:—

"The Institutions Committee of the Kensington Guardians have had under consideration the letter from the Association of Poor-Law Unions with regard to the representation of Poor-Law interests on the Council of the College of Nursing, including that of the nurses in the Poor-Law. In reporting upon this to the last meeting of the Guardians, the Committee stated that they find that the representation of the Poor-Law nurses on the Council of the College of Nursing is already in the hands of three Poor-Law Infirmary Matrons of high standing, and they do not consider that the best interests of the nurses would be advanced by representatives sent by the Association of Poor-Law Unions, and therefore recommend that no action be taken on the letter."

"It is evident from the terms of this recommendation, which was approved by the Board, that the Kensington Institutions Committee have not compassed the full purport of the communication from the Poor-Law Unions' Association, nor of 'representation' of the Poor-Law nurses on the Council of this College. The Unions' Association deal mainly with the question of Poor-Law interests in the public infirmaries as affected by the proposals of the College; it is the National Poor-Law Officers' Association, which in its Nurses Sections comprises a membership of many hundreds of Poor-Law nurses, which requests direct representation for them on the Council of the College. And those Nursing Sections at a general conference have selected three members for that purpose. Both the intention and the object are clear and laudable, and they have, in fact, been directly backed by Boards of Guardians in all parts of England and Wales as well as by the Officers' organisation. As regards the nurses, it is 'representation' which is aimed at, and the fact that 'three Poor-Law Infirmary Matrons of high standing' have been selected by the promoters of the College themselves to take part in its constructive proposals does not

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