

if not voluntary, must be enforced, that is, to ensure success.

It is like a vast piece of machinery, which is useless if one of the smallest and apparently trifling portions need repair.

Coming still further to every-day life, most of us know the advantage of living or visiting in a home where discipline is supreme; order there is queen, all is comfort and regularity; compared to those of a reverse type, the contrast is most painful. Of course, it frequently happens that the one who holds the position of head of a family is unfit to guide; if so it is unfortunate indeed, as there is very little help. Those around must suffer the penalty of general discomfort and dissatisfaction. When we see so many advantages arising from good management and a thorough knowledge of housekeeping, I think a girl's education should be considered incomplete without practical instruction in this important subject: to learn to rule, if such be her position in life; and if in an inferior one, to learn to obey. They would find it most advantageous in after life. A much larger percentage find it more easy to obey than to command; this, too, seems to be in obedience to another law of nature, as fewer are called upon to assume authority, and on an average very few are fitted for it, so their study must be the watchword, "Obedience," for Nature has ordained them to be under subjection.

Having endeavoured to express my opinion that there must be a ruling power, and that the lesser must be subservient to the greater, in no place can it possibly assert itself with more force and conviction than in a large Hospital.

The staff—or the part we are considering—being composed of women only, it is a well-known fact they are much more difficult to manage than the same number of men, as in a regiment. They are composed of all classes. Some, although delicately reared, are by unfortunate circumstances compelled to accept the humblest positions, and to associate with those whose ideas and tastes are entirely at variance with probably refined ones; it is therefore no easy matter to ensure peace and concord amongst such a number of opposite dispositions. Women as a rule are more quarrelsome, more prone to jealousy, and more rebellious, and altogether it renders it highly necessary that discipline must be observed to the letter. The first symptom of insubordination must be suppressed, even if at the cost of great inconvenience. Upon a Probationer entering a Hospital on trial, she must be prepared to give unquestioning obedience to those immediately in authority over her. She will merely be called upon to act under the orders of her superior officer; others will think and plan; and unless she can

make up her mind to fill this humble position she had better try some other vocation, as the training of a Nurse means submission, docility and complete self-abnegation.

I am convinced that happiness does not consist in "having our own way"; far from it. A spoiled child is never happy, and another quotation from Tupper says:—"The child that is used to constraint, feareth not more than he loveth."

This is doubtless the case with children of a larger growth, in every position of life, and this I feel sure is another law of nature, placing all in their proper positions one towards another.

Before proceeding further on the duty of obedience of its different officers, a glance at the Wards will not be out of place. Take a large London Hospital, for example. The Wards are divided into sets of four called "floors," each one being a little kingdom in itself; no outside Nurse has any right to enter without permission.

A Sister is at the head of this domain, and she alone is responsible to the Matron for all that goes on within. *She* takes all orders from the Surgeons or Physicians; she is to see carried out all their instructions—with the right or wrong of such orders she has nothing to do. She must render implicit obedience to the Doctor, as far as her medical duties extend; but the Matron only has authority over her.

In case of neglect of duty no Doctor has power to reprimand, and should the orders of the Matron and those of the Doctor clash, the obedience of the Sister is due only to the Matron, who is her mistress, placed over her as their deputy by the Committee, whose servant she is, and to whom all such difficulties must be referred.

The Medical Staff are a great power in a Hospital, and should always be considered first; they alone are responsible to the Committee, and from them to the public, for the lives and deaths of their patients; in law their word goes first. A Matron may be styled *queen* of her domain; but the Medical Staff is king; in *this*, like any other law of the lesser and the greater, the lesser gives way, either by calling it courtesy or any term that will get over the difficulty, if one exists; but certainly the prerogative of the Medical Staff of a Hospital must brook no interference. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," and if ever so unfortunate a thing should occur as war between the scientific and domestic or Nursing departments, we are sure that the mighty power of science will assert itself, and in the end the weaker will have to yield more obedience by *compulsion* than was formerly only asked by *courtesy*. A "Sister" is generally a lady, and is trained solely to rule, and is never taken from the ranks of Assistant Nurses. Each is in her way a small

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