

very quiet, and when I first saw her I felt quite out of place in a private Institute, and wished myself back again in my dear old Hospital. But soon after she was sent to a case of great emergency. I happened to be in on rest, and could you have heard the grumbling unkind way she spoke of those she was attending, I fear those who hold personal appearance, sweet faces and quiet unselfish people up for examples, should certainly investigate the characters of such before they call them the ideal Nurses of to-day. To my idea, Nurses think a great deal too much of their personal appearance. I once heard a remark that a cloak and bonnet cover a multitude of sin. Before a Nurse writes what a Nurse ought to be, look into our own heart, strip the curtain from our own eyes, and let us ask ourselves the straight question, "Do I come up to that?" It's what we appear to the public, to ourselves, to our God. How different those three appearances would be if photographed!

Number two, my ideal Nurse. A bright faced, rather rough-haired little creature, who had just come in from a heavy case, and sent off to a family where typhoid was very bad. You should have seen her—not a murmur, and when she came to the Institute for her letters a few days after, I asked her how she was getting on, and this is her answer: "Splendidly, dear. Are you better? I am so happy; the children love me so, and when I come to leave them I shall almost break my heart." I asked her if she had been to bed. "Certainly not; I could not rest until they are out of danger; but don't mention this to the Lady Superintendent. I can see they can't afford a second, and I intend to take my holidays soon after; then I can rest." She went on until they were all out of danger, doing her work in a noble unselfish spirit.

I had the pleasure of nursing a lady friend of her patient's, and she told me that this rather rough-haired Nurse, who usually wore her cap a little on one side, and would run out in her print to get a little fresh air, was not above doing up the grate, washing the floor with disinfectant, and doing everything for the quiet and comfort of her patients. I heard a Nurse tell her she was one of those who was the ruin of our profession, and they would expect another to do the same. Her answer, "I did not work for the honour of the Institute, or the profession, or my own gain, but for conscience sake, the great love I have for my work, and for the sake of Him who has been pleased to call me to so high a sphere." This is what I believe in doing, whatever one's hands find to do with all honesty, gaining the hearts, as well as the confidence of your patients. It is not enough to hear them say we are clever, but that they love to have us near them, to feel that we are their hands, their eyes, their mind. I once heard a lady say, "My Nurse reads my every wish. I have no care." There must be true sweet sympathy between patient and Nurse. As to showing every respect to our superiors, a Nurse will do that best by doing her duty faithfully, and so lessen the great stress and anxiety they are subject to. I mean both Doctors and Lady Superintendents. Dear Nurses, is it not grand to see the look of confidence a Doctor or superior gives a trustworthy woman, one who keeps a clear, pure conscience, and looks away from what we are to what we shall be when our days of trust are done?—  
Yours truly,  
A FAR FROM IDEAL NURSE.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, PADDINGTON GREEN.

HEAR BOTH SIDES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Seeing a letter on the death of Nurses at the Children's Hospital, Paddington Green, may I ask you to spare a small space for statements which I feel it my duty to make? I, too, have been under Miss Anderson's supervision as one of the Staff Nurses, but unfortunately developed from hereditary tendency pulmonary symptoms, which necessitated an immediate removal from duty, although, I am

afraid, with great inconvenience, and the kindness and care I received from our Lady Superintendent I shall always review with deepest gratitude. Her first request was that before leaving the Hospital I should see a Doctor, which I did in her presence, and was transferred by note from her to another Hospital cab-fare being paid. I need scarcely say with what surprise I read the letter, and am quite sure other Nurses who have worked under Miss Anderson will also.

Every one will admit that a Nurse should have a firm decision until she is pronounced by a Doctor to be a patient herself; but any Nurse who feels ill, and definitely refuses to see a Doctor, is herself alone responsible for consequences. In a small Hospital, where the Staff is sufficiently organised in number (without supernumeraries), it is not easy to spare two Nurses at a moment's, or even a few hours', notice. The sanitary arrangements, supply of linen, &c., are such that every Nurse who has been fortunate enough to work under Miss Anderson will be firmly convinced that all necessary precautions were taken.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

DISINTERESTED.

### COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. TWENTY-THIRD COMPETITION.

A Book or Books of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay upon the following subject:—

"Describe for a Hospital containing fifty beds the number of Nursing Officials, Staff, Pupils, or Probationers, required; mention their duties, their hours, and the regulations necessary for satisfactory working."

#### RULES.

- 1.—Contributions must reach the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, not later than Saturday, March 7th, 1891, addressed as follows:—"Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C."
  - 2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.
  - 3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs., of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.
  - 4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.
  - 5.—Winners in previous Competitions are permitted to compete, but in case of a "tie" the prize would be awarded to the Competitor who has not secured a prize before.
- The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

### The "Nursing Record" POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

No. 15.

A Book or Books of the value of Five Shillings will be awarded to the best answer to the following question, addressed, "Nursing Record Post-Card Competition," St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, E.C. All answers to this question to reach us not later than the morning of Saturday, March 7th, 1891:—

"Describe the immediate treatment (in emergency) in a case of Bleeding from a Varicose Vein."

(a) The answer must be written (neatness and distinctness count to credit) in ink, on a thick post-card, with the full name and address of the candidate at the top. The successful candidate's answer will be printed in *fac-simile*.

(b) All associated with nursing work are accepted as candidates, but in case of a "tie" a subscriber will naturally have preference, and for this reason each candidate must mention at the bottom of the post-card "I am a subscriber," or "I obtain the NURSING RECORD from—"

(c) The decision of the Examiners to be final.

\* Give name and address of newsagent where obtained.

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