

in the same category as doctors with regard to their physical capabilities. Once again, the error has doubtless been increased by the conduct of Nurses who have made up for want of strength by unstinted expenditure of nervous energy, and have in times of crisis stayed at their posts with increasing weakness, but undiminished resolution. The fact that Nurses become so wearied out that they need a Home of Rest is, however, calculated to make people reflect. Then it becomes plain that the work of the Doctor is as different from that of the Nurse as are the physical powers of men to those of women. The medical practitioner, however anxious and responsible his duties, and however onerous they are in their entirety, has in every patient a new source of interest, while in his long rounds he, at least, has some exercise and constant fresh air. The Nurse's interest, on the other hand, is bound up in one patient, and hour after hour, day after day, perhaps week after week, she has to watch the varying progress of disease, to endure with all patience the whims and fancies and the irritable manner of one sick person, and the constant questionings of anxious relatives. She has to keep one body—ill at ease—as comfortable as possible, and the mind upon which the body re-acts, calm and composed. If she does this successfully, she becomes indispensable, and every moment which she spends outside the sick-room is so openly regretted—if not grudged her—that she has few or no opportunities for rest and exercise during the day, and is most fortunate if she secures a modicum of sleep at night. If she is worthy of the name of Nurse, she must feel with, and for, her patient, and so incur the superadded mental anxiety as well as the physical strain. There can be no wonder, therefore, that Private Nurses break down in health and strength, even more frequently than their fellow-workers in Hospitals. Then, on the other hand, as it has been well said, "it needs no argument to prove how necessary it is for the sick that their attendants should be healthy and strong." The necessity for a Home of Rest for Nurses being therefore proved beyond dispute, it follows that it must be for the public benefit that public support to it should be freely given; while the very need for the Home and for popular interest in it must make those who have never considered the subject before, realise how increasingly dependent the sick are, upon their Nurses.

From this, again, follows a new chain of reasoning. Because the more necessary Nursing is felt to be, the more keenly will it become

understood that when Nurses are required, efficient Nurses must be obtained. And this opens up what our contemporaries at present are terming "the Nursing Controversy," although we entirely fail to understand wherein any controversy can possibly exist if the facts of the case be only plainly stated. How is a sick person to know when he has obtained an efficient Nurse until he has experienced her ministrations, and, for all he knows at present, her purely experimental endeavours? We are glad to observe upon all sides that the present opposition to the Association is driving the salient truth deeper and deeper into the public mind that at present the only protection against Nursing impostors is to be found in the Register of Nurses. So the necessary sequence of ideas leads from the recognition of the usefulness of Nursing to the clearer understanding that technical efficiency is essential, and then to the knowledge that the Register is the only easily consulted guide as to whether any given Nurse has or has not been thoroughly trained in Hospitals.

But now we arrive at a further conclusion. Because it is certain that the first idea which occurs to any lay or professional mind upon first consulting the Register is surprise at the great diversity of places and terms of training which it exposes. Jane Smith, certificated at the end of a year's work at Little Peddlington Cottage Hospital, is now, it appears, employed and supplied to the public on exactly the same terms, by the same Institution, as Julia Brown, who only received her certificate after three years' work and careful training at Guy's Hospital. The Register gives the public at a glance the means of discriminating for the first time between the training of different Nurses, and therefore between the terms of training afforded by different Hospitals. And the chaotic diversity which the Register proves to exist in this matter has already attracted attention and comment. What will be the next step? The public is certain sooner or later to demand that its Nurses shall be more uniformly and more systematically trained for their arduous and most responsible calling. And then we arrive at the goal to which everyone interested in Nursing, looks. The petty jealousies between different schools swept away, all engaged in educating Nurses upon one uniform system, and the only rivalry left being the laudable ambition of each Hospital to produce the most useful assistants to medical men and the best attendants for the sick.

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