

"Thank you, Roger; but for my part I don't consider myself a Bohemian at all," I said.

"I am afraid you must rank with your husband, wife," said *mine*, as the wives of the working people of London often call their husbands.

"Then you do count yourself a Bohemian; pray what significance do you attach to the epithet?" I asked.

"I don't know, except it signifies our resemblance to the gipsies," he answered.

"I don't understand you quite."

"I believe the gipsies used to be considered Bohemians," interposed Roger, "though they are doubtless of Indian origin. Their usages being quite different from those amongst which they live, the name Bohemian came to be applied to painters, musicians, and such like generally, to whom, save by courtesy, no position has yet been accorded by society—so called."

"But why have they not yet vindicated for themselves a social position—and that a high one?" I asked.

"Because they are generally poor, I suppose," he answered; "and society is generally stupid."

"May it not be because they are so often, like the gipsies, lawless in their behaviour, as well as peculiar in their habits?" I suggested.

"I understand you, perfectly, Mrs. Percivale," rejoined Roger, with mock offence. "But how would that apply to Charlie?"

"Not so well as to you, I confess," I answered. "But there is ground for it with him too."

"I have thought it all over many a time," said Percivale, and I suppose it comes in part from inability to understand the worth of our calling, and in part from the difficulty of knowing where to put us."

"I suspect," I said, "one thing is that so many of them are content to be received as painters merely, or whatever they may be by profession. Many, for instance, you have told me, accept invitations which do not include their wives."

"They often go to parties, of course, where there are no ladies," said Roger.

"That is not what I mean," I replied. "They go to dinner parties where there are ladies, and evening parties, too, without their wives."

"Whoever does that," said Percivale, "has at least no right to complain that he is regarded as a Bohemian; for in accepting such invitations he accepts insult, and himself insults his wife."

(To be continued.)

NOTICE TO OUR READERS.—The article "Obstetric Nursing," and several other items are left over until next week.

The "Nursing Record" POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

No. 20.

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, May 23rd, 1891:—

"What would you do in a case of Epistaxis, or Bleeding from the Nose?"

(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.

COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. TWENTY-FOURTH COMPETITION.

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

"Describe in full the amount and kind of help required in a Hospital laundry. The Hospital contains sixty-four beds; and there is a daily average of fifty-four patients. Their personal linen is not washed at the Hospital. The Staff consisting of House Surgeon, Matron, eight Nurses, and ten servants, there are about eighty Ward sheets fourteen quilts, fourteen blankets, eighty pillow-cases, towels, &c., besides the house linen, eighty Nurses' and Servants' aprons, and, of course, a large number of collars and cuffs, to be washed each week. The servants all wear cotton dresses, but not the Nurses. The washing is not to be done by machinery."

RULES.

1.—Contributions to be sent to the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, not later than Saturday, June 6, 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.

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