

Let us arise and seek to make "life" a grander thing. He who shoots at the sky strikes at a higher target than he who aims at a tree; therefore, aim high. "We stumble and learn to walk. Our blunders educate us. In the end every man works out his own destiny." Wise men learn wisdom from the mistakes of others; fools from their own.

Quite recently (as perhaps few will be prepared to deny) there has been quite a great wild talk about the incompetence and insubordination of Nurses; and as our noble friend, Miss Faithful, happens to be one of those "dull" individuals, you know, who seek a reason for everything, she has, I learn, been casting about for the "why and wherefore" of this unearthly babblement. Nothing very wicked about that, surely. Albeit, of this I am in a position to testify that the prosecution of her arduous task has cost her her bread. Speaking of this and similar cases, as cases of *living martyrdom* for the truth, some of our Nursing friends have quietly repudiated the same. Well, the Nursing Profession is indebted to such women to-day, and it matters very little whether it cares to acknowledge the debt or no. To-day such women are dubbed incompetent, failures, and what not; to-morrow, these sagacious, intrepid, inventive, and patient souls will be our triumphant leaders. "On the counter of the world take heed what coin is rung."

"We cannot tolerate those *vague* inquiries," say our stately Managing Directors; "they are detrimental to the institutions." But if, Sir, this statement is correct, there must surely be a screw loose in those (so-called) Charitable Institutions somewhere, and it is high time they were subjected to investigation and inspection. No such demoralising subterfuges should be accepted in these days, for they can only tend to fasten a conviction of ignorance and blindness upon the Nursing Profession generally in the long run. Truth, my good friend, requires no flavouring. It is awkwardly bitter betimes when administered neat. But I would remind you, while honest men and women are destined

to linger anywhere in poverty and precariousness, this world of ours is not fit for gentlemen or gentlewomen to live in. Dives may have his purple and fine linen, and fare sumptuously every day. I, for one, pray that the races of Dives may increase; but what I wish also is, that never more shall a Lazarus be found at his gate."

Now do not let us be carried away by those who argue that because "the larks do not make their own singing, therefore mortals do not make their own sighing." And, pray, why are we not making greater efforts to slay this unseemly grief-monster? For the ostracism aforesaid bids one pause to urge upon you and your readers the stern necessity for the exercise of your powers of thought; thereby you will soon realise that the "suffering which puzzles so many of us often leads to valued good, and when properly understood you will find also that suffering exists for reasons of the highest, purest, and kindest import, such as when understood must be absolutely satisfactory to the sufferers themselves."

Then again, by way of illustration, I have no hesitation in saying that few members of the medical and Nursing professions are to-day in a position to deny that "man has power to discover causes, and to remove the ills that flesh is heir to." A glorious and terrible responsibility; but, be it remembered, it is a grand birthright, this power, this free-will. Says some writer, "The history of the methods for the prevention of pain in surgical operations should be studied by all those who doubt man's power to alleviate and remove the pains of life—the use of nitrous oxide of gas, of sulphuric ether, and of chloroform as an anæsthetic—that is, a means by which complete insensibility may be safely produced and so long maintained that a surgical operation, of whatever severity and however prolonged, may be *absolutely painless!*"

As we stand in reverential awe face to face with such splendid achievements, we may well doff our hats to such workers, pause and consider our ways. Talk about a better education for Nurses! why, in the name of common-sense,



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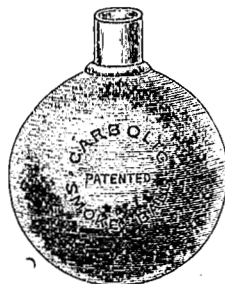
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