

something worse—*selfish*. It is surely a danger signal when nurses can say, as many do, with apparent unconsciousness of their gross selfishness concerning some proposed reform, "Well, it won't do *me* any good, I don't take any interest in it." Reforms are established to secure the greatest good for the greatest number, not for insignificant "*me*."

We nurses need to create a new atmosphere, to rekindle the fire of enthusiasm which burnt so clear and brightly in the hearts and minds of the great pioneers of the modern nursing movement in this and other countries. We have drifted into a state of dangerous individualism. We need *badly* the spirit embodied in these words: "*Whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; whether one member rejoice all the members rejoice with it.*" This alone will make the nursing profession *our own*. For this we need dauntless courage, for it presupposes difficulties.

Why are nurses so full of fear? Nurses are afraid of their Matrons, Matrons are afraid of their Committees. It is a fact which can't be denied, it is obvious enough. This devitalising quality is like a vampire, it sucks the lifeblood from the *body* of nursing. *Why* are nurses so afraid of their Matrons?

Respect, which is due to them, is one thing, but fear is quite another thing. This fearsomeness which tends so much to vitiate character, and is so hindering to progress, has grown apace during the past three years. The College of Nursing, Ltd., we are given to understand, is founded upon the principle of democratic government, and stands for greater freedom for the nurses, and yet we hear over and over again from the nurses themselves, who have become members, that it was contrary to their inclinations to join it; their Matrons had practically compelled them to do so by exercising undue pressure. What a glaring contradiction, what a demonstrable proof that "things are not what they seem"!

Why don't nurses reply, upon such occasions, courageously and politely, that they would prefer to study a question which concerns themselves and their profession so intimately before committing themselves. If *all* nurses had the courage to assume this attitude of dignified independence the whole body of nursing would receive a great impetus of moral strength, while the self-respect of the individuals would be increased and the community benefited. What an enormous difference it would make! what a much greater profession ours should be, and how much prouder we should be of it, and how jealously we should guard its honour! A profession built up upon the strong rock of courage, self-respect and stability of character, could remove mountains.

By fear do we create difficulties, and by more fear we perpetually increase them. These artificial barriers are of our making, and could be thrown down by the action of our own free will. We are rejoicing over a great measure of victory

that we have just gained in the House of Commons, and we look forward with faith and hope to a complete victory. To whom do we owe it? Largely, very largely to the courage and *fearlessness* of our leaders. It has been truly said that all people of strong character are inspired by a firm belief in their own cause, whatever it may be. It is their *creed*. We have our professional creed too. We *believe* in the greatness of our profession, its potentialities and possibilities. We *believe* that "*Courage is on all hands considered an essential of high character.*" We also *believe* in the necessity of raising the blockade of craven fear.

BEATRICE KENT,
M.R.B.N.A.

THE TRAINING, QUALIFICATIONS, AND DUTIES OF HEALTH VISITORS.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, April 10th, Sir H. Harris asked the President of the Local Government Board "whether he proposes to issue an order prescribing the qualifications and salaries of health visitors; and, if so, whether he is willing to receive suggestions on the subject?"

Dr. Addison replied: "I have the subject of the training, qualifications and duties of health visitors now under consideration; and though my hon. Friend will no doubt assume that I have competent advisers, I shall, of course, be happy to receive suggestions from him. I may add that I have already invited suggestions from a number of representative persons."

We commend the incident to the notice of members of the Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work.

MARRIAGES.

On the 11th inst., at New Court Chapel, Tollington Park, London, N., Nurse Beatrice M. Lindsey was married to Dr. Scott Leyton.

Nurse Lindsey was trained at the Dudley Road and Selly Oak Infirmaries, Birmingham, and became a member of the Royal British Nurses Association in 1918.

The bridesmaid was Nurse Rainbow, also trained at those Infirmaries, and a member of the R.B.N.A. The duties of the best man were discharged by Mr. S. J. Wareham, F.R.C.S.

The marriage took place recently of Mr. Herbert Earp, the popular water-colour painter, to Miss Kate C. Atherton, who is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and also Medallist of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Her fellow members unite in wishing her and her husband much happiness.

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