

Without this, love and care alone would not suffice to nurture health or overcome disease. . . . "Nursing art, like medical art, is based on science, or knowledge of facts and truth. Only as science displaced superstition could these arts make real, substantial progress, and this is why we are so much interested in following every step in the development of a knowledge of nature, and especially of medical science throughout the ages. Only the awakening of women to intellectual life and emancipation has been of equal significance in the history of nursing, with the history of the medical profession.

"The work of nursing the sick has, in the past, had a greater share in the dramatic and picturesque features of social life than other lines of so-called women's work. At epochal historical periods our profession has taken on unique and surprising forms, and prominent nurses, both men and women, have led lives of high adventure and distinction. The call of nursing is to follow the sick and injured wherever they are; thus it has often had periods of full publicity when it has shared in all the pageantry of war and peace. This dramatic character, with the universal appeal to sentiment and sympathy made by suffering, has made nursing the favourite preoccupation of noble and royal women, from the earliest dawn of history, as has been illustrated afresh in the recent war, when queens and empresses have put on the nurse's uniform. As a profession for self-supporting women in modern times nursing has suffered from this patronage, yet it has also in the past been benefited by it. Whether helpful or not, this is a factor which will always have to be reckoned with while social distinctions last.

"While the prevailing status of women in the passing centuries was faithfully reflected in the ranks of nurses at work, it was also, at favourable periods, considerably influenced and modified by their activities. There is in the nature of nursing something which resists convention and artificial restriction. Pioneers and leaders in our profession have always felt this, even in remote centuries, and have shown a courage and an independence in action that must always have contributed definitely, even if unconsciously, to the feminist movements of their day. From this aspect of the 'woman movement' the social prestige of high-born women who entered nursing has been very helpful, while, as modern times approached, nursing became a pioneer in offering economic independence to women of education and good family, whose sole other alternative was 'governessing' or needlework."

#### MEDICINE AND NURSING.

The authors then go on to show how medicine and nursing have always been most intimately allied, and at first one and the same. "As time went on two special branches of the art diverged—the medicine-giver and the care-taker. Though their spheres may, at times, have merged into one another, yet mainly the nurse (not always, but

usually a woman) has been the one who personally cared for the sick and helpless patient, attended to his food and other physical needs, gave solace and comfort according to the prevailing degree of mentality or instinct, learned to apply simple remedies for the relief of pain, and was selected to assist the physician in his treatments. The physician has been the one who was called in; whose wisdom has been relied on to find out the cause of illness, to prescribe treatment, to perform operations, or to conduct the ceremonials of magic or of religion to banish the evil elements that caused the crisis. . . . The physician is often a model nurse. But for the attainment of the highest efficiency the whole field of the care of the sick has come to be divided into various departments, one of which is the caretaking or nursing, and to this has now been assigned much that used to be given to the medical man. Perhaps the one essential dividing line between nursing and medical specialties is that they require a different discipline, a different administration. What this shall be has formed the controversial element in nursing history. To-day, the field of work has again been further divided by the specialization of sanitation. Not every sanitarian is a physician or a nurse, but every physician and nurse must be something of a sanitarian."

It will be realized from the foregoing that the authors deal in a most inspiring way with the history of a profession which is second to none in high traditions, in a *personnel* which has included some of the finest men and women in all ages, which makes demands upon the brain, the hand, and the heart, thus rendering it a most satisfying profession to women of high altruistic aspirations, which calls and needs such women, if preventable suffering is to be prevented, and if suffering, when it occurs, is to be alleviated and cured.

In its present form the History is essentially a book for the class use of student nurses.

The book should have a place on the shelves of every training school library, and nurses trained, and in training, should not rest until they have not only read, but mastered and absorbed its contents.

In future issues we hope to discuss some of the many interesting facts with which this volume abounds, and deals so interestingly and brilliantly.

E. G. F.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*February 7th and 8th.*—The Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses. Bazaar and Café Chantant. 46, Upper Grosvenor Street, W.1. Opened by H.H. Princess Marie Louise. 12 o'clock.

*February 17th.*—Her Majesty the Queen lays the Foundation Stone of Queen Mary's Home for St. Bartholomew's Nurses. St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. 3 p.m.

*February 17th.*—Monthly Meeting, Central Midwives' Board, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, Westminster.

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