

they have laid the foundation of a Medical School; then they have attracted to their service eminent medical and surgical teachers, whose reputation brought increased numbers of the sick to the Institution. And ever enlarging demands for assistance naturally led to extension of their buildings through increased public approval, confidence, and support. Even, to this day, this has been the invariable course of events, but it is sometimes asserted that the success of a Hospital depends upon its lay Committee, and the importance of professionalism is unrecognised, or even openly depreciated. The histories of a hundred special Hospitals prove the absolute absurdity of the assertion and furnish additional proofs of our contention. With the greatest names in the kingdom on its managing body, more than one Hospital has died of inanition because the sick did not visit it. With one or two successful Doctors upon their Staffs, many Hospitals have achieved a world-wide reputation, although its directors were perhaps unknown outside their domestic or commercial circle. We recognise, as fully as anyone, the incalculable service which business men render to our Institutions by undertaking the charge and responsibility of their financial management. But, on the rare and lamentable occasions when the lay and medical elements have come into collision, it has been conclusively proved that the Hospital without a Committee can go on and prosper, but that one without doctors must close its doors within an hour.

Now, as it has been, in the past, with Medical Schools, so we can foresee quite plainly it will be, in the future, with Nursing Schools. Medicine and Nursing are now inseparable, and what affects the one, must at once reflect upon the other. Nurses are, every year, more largely drawn from the same class as Medical Students, and although, when at work, the Nurse must ever be subordinate to the Doctor, parents and guardians are becoming increasingly careful as to the reputation of the Hospital to which their daughters and wards go for their education. This must inevitably lead to the improvements, which some Training Schools have been wise enough already to institute, being adopted at all.

And so we would contend that the prosperity of a Medical School will, in future, be bound up with the prosperity of the associated Nursing School. Let us look back twelve years, to the time when the influx of educated women into the calling was becoming marked. A great con-

troversy arose in the Nursing department of a large Metropolitan Hospital—consequent upon what can now be seen to have been faults of temper and of tact, on both sides—in the execution of greatly-needed reforms. For several weeks the contest raged, and it is not too much to say that its first and most marked result was shown in the sudden decadence of what was then the leading Medical School in the Metropolis—a collapse in the number of its Students, which required ten years for its recovery. The same lesson has been taught, on several occasions since, and again, last year, when another important London Hospital was shown to have the gravest defects in the management of its Nursing Department. Upon this occasion there was no open internal dissension; to a very considerable extent the whole truth was not revealed to the public. But the self-same result followed, and last October the Medical School showed by the sudden drop in the number of its Students, that the public had learnt enough to distrust the management. Judging by the letters we have received, during the past twelve months, we are strongly inclined to believe that there will be found, this year, to have occurred a still greater fall in the number of new Students at this Medical School. We may also inform the Staff of the Institution that, in our judgement, if they desire their School to revive, they should, at once, demand an open and public inquiry into the condition of the Nursing Department of their Hospital, and the immediate institution of such reforms as that inquiry shows to be needful. Otherwise, the fire will continue to smoulder, the smoke will cause increasing public distrust, and any day it may break again into an open flame, which would probably damage more than the Nursing School.

But how is the feeling of *esprit de corps* amongst Nurses, upon which we have laid such stress, to be increased? We say, without hesitation, that it chiefly depends upon the treatment accorded to them by the authorities of the Training Schools. We imagine that we have said sufficient to prove that it is for the direct benefit of the Hospital and of the Medical Staff that a feeling of greater loyalty to their Institution should be encouraged and cultivated amongst its Nursing Students. It is, unhappily, more easy to give examples at present of how this feeling can be discouraged, than instances in which it has been aroused. If a Nurse is treated throughout her pupilage—and finds all her

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