

place and with whom I lived ; but I told her that Mrs. Conan had saved me from the workhouse, and was as much of a mother to me as it was possible for her to be, that we loved each other, and that it would be very wrong of me to leave her now, especially that she was not so well as she had been ; and I believe she then saw the thing as I saw it. She made me play to her, was pleased—indeed surprised, until I told her how I had been supporting myself—and insisted on my resuming my studies with her, which I was only too glad to do. I now of course got on much faster, and she expressed satisfaction with my progress, but continued manifestly uneasy at the kind of thing I had to encounter, and became of necessity more and more familiar with.

"When Mrs. Conan fell ill, I had indeed hard work of it. Unlike most of her class, she had laid by a trifle of money, but as soon as she ceased to add to it, it began to dwindle, and was very soon gone. Do what I could for a while, if it had not been for the kindness of the neighbours, I should sometimes have been in want of bread ; and when I hear hard things said of the poor, I often think that surely providence is not so bad as selfishness. But, of course, there are all sorts amongst them, just as there are all sorts in every class. When I went out to teach, now one, now another of the women in the house would take charge of my friend ; and when I came home, except her guardian happened to have got tipsy, I never found she had been neglected. Miss Harper said I must raise my terms ; but I told her that would mean the loss of my pupils. Then she said she must see what could be done for me, only no one she knew was likely to employ a child like me, if I were able to teach ever so well. One morning, however, within a week, a note came from Lady Bernard, asking me to go and see her.

"I went, and found—a mother. You do not know her, I think ? But you must one day. Good people like you must come together. I will not attempt to describe her. She awed me at first, and I could hardly speak to her—I was not much more than thirteen then—but with the awe came a certain confidence which was far better than ease. The immediate result was that she engaged me to go and play for an hour five days a week at a certain hospital for sick children in the neighbourhood which she partly supported. She was too wise to pay me much at first. She inquired before making me the offer how much I was already earning, asked me upon how much I could support Mrs. Conan and myself comfortably, and then made the sum of my weekly earnings up to that amount. At the same time, however, she sent many things to warm and feed the

old woman, so that my mind was set at ease about her. She got a good deal better for a while, but continued to suffer so much from rheumatism, that she was quite unfit to go out charing any more ; and I would not hear of her again exposing herself to the damps and draughts of empty houses, so long as I was able to provide for her—of which ability you may be sure I was not a little proud at first."

(To be continued.)

COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY.

TWENTY-FIFTH COMPETITION.

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

"Give a History of the Work and Progress of Nursing during the Present Century."

RULES.

1.—Contributions to be sent to the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, addressed as follows not later than August 8th, 1891 :—
"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.

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.

NOTICE.—The Prize Essay Editor will not undertake to return MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope ; and in no case will he be responsible for any loss of same during transmission, &c. In no case must manuscripts be rolled up when sent by post ; they must be folded.

The "Nursing Record" POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

No. 25.

A Book or Books of the value of Five Shillings will be awarded to the best answer to the following question :—

"What is the meaning of the term 'Disinfection,' and give some of the commonest means employed for its accomplishment ?"

addressed, "Nursing Record Post-Card Competition," St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, E.C. All answers must reach us not later than the morning of Saturday, August 15th, 1891.

(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.

DISPOSE OF THE DEAD AS NATURE DIRECTS.—Everyone interested in the reform of funeral abuses should read the brochure published by the London Necropolis Company. It can be had gratis of the Secretary, 2, Lancaster Place, Strand, or 188, Westminster Bridge Road.

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