

meshes of officialism and red-tape, when will they cease to enamour us? The fear of man, whither is that leading us! And the sanctified Golden Calf, when shall we abstain from falling down at its shrine? "As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be," who will overthrow this idol? For these are problems which will have to be faced, and a satisfactory solution thereunto found, else *brains* must remain at a discount, and education prove to be a delusion and a snare.

"Indeed, I am surprised at you, Sister," said a junior Nurse to me, the other day. "Why don't you go regularly to Holy Communion?" "Holy Communion!" ejaculated I, in profound astonishment, as I laid down the book I was reading; "what do you mean, Nurse?" "Why, go to church, you know," she said. "I should flag at once were I to neglect to go there very often." "Perhaps so; but what has that to do with your question?" I inquired. "Just this," she continued, "we who go to church want you all to enjoy the same blessings and privileges." "Indeed; and is that your primary reason for interrupting my meditations?" I queried again, with a view to arriving at something definite by way of a solution of the matter at issue. "Certainly!" she retorted, as o'er those accommodating and platinum features of hers there stole a cold sardonic smile. "Really, Nurse, you astonish me now!" I said. "But let me give you an illustration. We will suppose that you and I are out at private work, each nursing a patient suffering from a similar malady—some might say the same malady, perhaps, and yet there are no two patients affected in exactly the same way—do you wish me to understand that because your patient had derived benefit from taking a certain prescribed medicine that you would have the impertinence to bring his bottle and command me to administer his medicine to my patient because it had done your's good, and that without my man's medical attendant's orders?" "Indeed! I should never think of doing anything of the kind," she said, stammering, and the crimson tips touched the roots of her hair. "Very good, child," was my rejoinder; "go your way, and mind your own points in religious matters likewise, and leave me to see to mine."

True, one meets a goodly number of those officious juniors, ay, and seniors too, betimes; and if this incident should meet the eye of any such, and the cap fits, it is to be hoped they will pull it down tight, and learn a lesson. Looking at other people, trying to pull the mote out of their eyes whilst the beam remains in our own, will not help us one bit to set things straight. It is no matter, I take it, whether we are appreciated or not. If we have any love for our own work, if we have any true self-respect, we shall not be found constantly fighting for petty points of precedence, we shall not waste the few remaining hours of our lives in belabouring his majesty, Paul Pry, but we shall go on our way heedless of misunderstanding and misrepresentation, prepared to do our best where we are (angels can do no more), and shall live down all unworthy reports or suspicions, assured that we shall be taken in the long run pretty much for what we are worth.

Events are moving very rapidly now, and whatever may have been the various shibboleths by which Matrons and Nurses have hitherto elected to be known, I would herewith venture to raise the clarion cry on behalf of their re-union. We should no longer permit ourselves to be tied and bound by those tantalising old ropes and chains, those uncemely fads, precedents, pet schemes, and the thousand and one regulation patterns of the past. The Nursing profession of the future should not be poor, cringing, servile, ignorant,

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prejudiced, narrow, bigoted, superstitious, dogmatic, despotic, and quarrelsome, as in those olden times; but free, liberal, generous, kind, beautiful, active, warm, pulsating, sympathetic, and tender; permeated with an intense love for our kind, mighty to the pulling-down of the strongholds of ignorance and prejudice, in overcoming all obstacles through the power of Divine truth. Yes! "There are foes to face and fields to win;" and we have no time now to waste in admiring what we are or have done. The sounds of yon raging battle demand that we conserve our forces for what we may yet be and for what we have yet to accomplish.

Up! ye brave and gentle sisters. Let us arise, and with hammer and nails in readiness, advance and fasten our colours to the mast; and you shall just see if—as the battle wanes—we won't together take turns at the helm, and all that are left of us steer straight for yon fertilising islands ahead, which are known to their inhabitants by the names of "Prosperity and Peace!"

And now adieu till we meet again, though I still may be found watching by  
MY STUDY WINDOW.

#### A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR SIR,—The announcement in your issue of the 18th inst. (No. 168 *Nursing Record*), that a scheme for the training of Probationers at the Kensington Infirmary, has been accepted by the Local Board, which "provides that at the expiration of *three years*, each Probationer, upon passing the prescribed examinations will receive a certificate of Nursing," will, if followed up and carried out in other and similar directions, mark a momentous epoch in the history of Nursing.

Every thoughtful woman engaged in Nursing must have deeply and often deplored that the great *Nurse-teaching* opportunities of our Poor Law Infirmarys, many of which are really magnificent Hospitals, have not long since been utilised for that purpose; and it is a matter for congratulation that it is to the practical sagacity of a member of the R.B.N.A.—Miss Hughes—that the first incipience of the new order of things should be due.

As regards the Obstetric portion of our Art, the teaching advantages offered to Probationers by our Poor Law Lying-in Wards *throughout* the Kingdom would be of inestimable advantage, and if the matter could be brought to a practical issue, would mark what I do not hesitate to call a revolution in Obstetric Nursing over the old order of things. Hundreds of intelligent, honourable, and educated women, wishing to devote themselves to Midwifery Nursing would willingly give *time* and money if permitted to do so. Poor Law service in this direction, and a *three years'* good training would make valuable Midwifery Nurses of them, and surely this would be an improvement over the present slipshod mode of teaching adopted by most of our present Maternity Hospitals, even if the Midwifery aspirant had the advantage of General Hospital Nursing.

To my mind this question is something more than a *Nursing*—I do not hesitate to call it a *national*—one. Is it unreasonable to ask that the ratepayers by whose compulsory contributions our immense system of Poor Law Medical Relief is maintained should derive some *indirect*, though not less important, advantage from our Infirmarys and Workhouses, on the same lines that the subscribers and donors to our Hospitals have done by the Medical Schools attached to them? Why should there not be Schools of Nursing at the former Institutions, for the instruction of Probationers for Poor Law Service? What more conducive to the welfare of our pauper sick than good nursing, and how can that be acquired except by *good* teaching, and wide opportunities for learning the Nursing Art in all its branches? Why should the splendid opportunities of our Pauper Institutions be allowed to run to waste, instead of being utilised for the

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