

arrives, she readily supplies the valuable tonic of a kindly laugh. Her care of her own body is as unobtrusive as her training. She lives so as to keep it efficient. Her fastidious personal cleanliness reminds one of daisies and apple-blossom. She neither rustles, jingles nor creaks. The size of her waist does not provoke speculation as to the rearrangement of her internal organs. Her soft tread spares the patient the torturing tapping of high heels. She is quiet, firm and decisive in all her movements; orderly and serene under all circumstances. Her voice is sweet, gentle and tender.

No matter how tragic the circumstances, she is always able to see the silver lining in the clouds and to bestow consolation. Nothing can exhaust her patience, because she realises that the sick are temporarily in the position of babies, having lost control of their physical vehicles, and that she is there to help them regain it. Her refinement is so real that embarrassment of any kind is superfluous in her presence. She has an intuitive understanding of all human experiences, and a profound sympathy for human failings.

Constantly in touch with sorrow and suffering, she realises the superficiality of social differences in this connection, and, as a rule, she is able to ignore them completely. *Amour propre* cannot be ruffled without injury, so she treats it gently.

She may not avow any religion, but she "has no thought which is not essentially religious, and which in its quest after the secrets of nature is moved primarily by a sincere devotion to the Spirit of Nature."

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Amy Phipps, Miss M. Ramsey, Mrs. J. E. Taylor, Miss May Dawson, and Miss C. Elizabeth Jeffs. Papers excellent this week.

Miss C. E. Jeffs writes:—"She has an air of capability about her which gives one the impression that she can be depended upon. She is the sort of person who wants to 'mother' everyone with whom she comes in contact, from the tiniest babe to the poor old helpless 'daddy' in the senile ward."

Miss Amy Phipps writes:—"Our real nurse will be a woman of broad outlook and many social interests: she will not confine her thoughts and activities to hospital or other nursing work—this for her own sake and for the sake of her patients."

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What do you know of Psoriasis, the different types, and their local and constitutional treatment?

NURSING ECHOES.

On a debate in the House of Lords on the North-West Frontier of India, and referring to the recent abduction of Miss Ellis, Lord Chelmsford suggested that their lordships should join in paying tribute to the gallantry of Mrs. Starr and the Indian officer who accompanied her. He also thought that a tribute should be paid to the Commissioner, Sir John Maffey, for what he had done. A suggestion in which their lordships concurred.

On May 12th, the Anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, Miss Kathleen Anna Smith, R.R.C., Matron of the London Temperance Hospital, delivered an Address in the Great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, under the auspices of the Royal Society of St. George, on "Florence Nightingale—a Great Englishwoman."

In introducing the lecturer, Major Richard Rigg, T.D., O.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the Executive Council, said those present foregathered under the auspices of the City Branch of the Royal Society of St. George, and there could be no finer setting for their meeting than the beautiful Hall of this historic hospital, in which they were assembled practically on the eve of the 800th anniversary of its foundation. The object of the Royal Society of St. George was the promotion of the spirit of patriotism, and in fulfilment of this object they arranged lectures on great Englishmen and Englishwomen. Thus during his term of office lectures had been given on Cecil Rhodes and General Wolfe, and now, on the birthday of that Great Englishwoman, Florence Nightingale, they were fortunate in having this subject dealt with by one who had made her life a special study.

In opening her address, Miss Smith said that Florence Nightingale kept practically all her papers. In her will of 1896 she directed that these papers should be destroyed, but subsequently revoked this direction, and it was from these documents that her life had mainly been compiled. Points emphasised in the lecture were that in Miss Nightingale were to be found the co-ordination of masterful powers with winning gentleness, and that it was a mistake to regard her work in the Crimea as the consummation of her life's work—rather was it the starting point. Her subsequent ill-health involved her seclusion, but she had a genius for administration and order, and exercised a potent influence from her sick room.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)