

time should the nurse allow the patient to assist himself in changing positions.

Patients having a laminectomy with a fusion are, as a rule, left in the cast for at least four weeks and must remain flat in bed for at least eight weeks. On the other hand, patients having only the laminectomy are ready to leave the hospital in three weeks. In regard to the post-operative care of these patients everything is done much sooner. For instance, the patient may be turned on his side on the second or third day and may have the head of the bed slightly elevated at meal times on the third or fourth day. Frequently the fracture board is removed from the bed on the eighth or ninth post-operative day. This is done by moving the patient on the mattress to another bed.

The immediate post-operative distress is due to inability to void, prolonged nausea and vomiting. The most common symptom is difficulty in voiding.

When there is prolonged nausea and vomiting there usually occurs marked distension that is difficult to relieve. This condition is usually called a paralytic ileus. Recently the administration of oxygen every 20 minutes for 10 minutes has been used very effectively.

In closing, just a word of warning—be careful how you lift and move patients, or for that matter any heavy object. One of our nurses is recovering now from a laminectomy performed recently. She injured her back five years ago lifting a patient.

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PEOPLE WHO PASS IN THE LIGHT.

Eager young journalists have recently called on us and offered to write up our "Life Story."

Imagine it! We have no ambition to end our days in durance vile, as we should probably do if the struggle for nursing reform was recorded together with the cruel attacks in the pillory, to which we have been subjected for half a century, largely by persons of our own profession instigated by jealous intolerance of nursing reform and liberty of conscience for the rank and file.

One journalistic sprig proposes as title, "The Persecution of a Nursing Pioneer"; or, "Fifty Years in a Professional Pillory."

We are quite content to be judged by the records in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which for half a century has faithfully recorded the struggle for nursing reform, realising that in this country the creative faculty amounts to a criminal offence, as Leonardo da Vinci has written "Perception is martyrdom."

We have in a long and active lifetime come into touch with a variety of persons of many nationalities, whose idiosyncrasies we have noted, and under the title of "People who Pass in the Light" may serve, when our Memoirs are published, to encourage high endeavour under difficulties, and to discourage futile opposition to inevitable evolution.

THE KING AND QUEEN OF CANADA.

The position and mutual relation of Great Britain and the Dominions including Canada were defined by the Imperial Conference of 1926 in the following terms:—

"They are autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

Later, in 1931, by the passage of the Statute of Westminster, provision was made for the removal of certain restrictions on the legislative autonomy of the Dominions. In fact the great Dominions have each become free nations in so far as the British Parliament is concerned, but enjoy the prestige of association under the Crown. We wonder how many legislators realised when voting for the Statute of Westminster that they were crowning the Dominions in their own right; and that when the King and Queen landed at Quebec on May 17th to begin their historic Canadian tour they received a tumultuous welcome as King and Queen of Canada, and were greeted by the Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, with the words: "Welcome, Sir, to Your Majesty's Realm of Canada"; and later, in course of his speech at Chateau Frontenac, Mr. Mackenzie King said:

"May it please Your Majesty, on behalf of the Canadian people I respectfully extend to Your Majesty and to Her Majesty the Queen a loyal welcome to your Dominion of Canada. We are deeply conscious of the signal honour of being the first of the oversea nations of the Commonwealth to be visited by the reigning Sovereign and of having the high privilege of welcoming in person our King and Queen. We are proud indeed to feel that in the person of Your Majesty we have among us, not the symbol, but the living presence of the Head of the whole Empire."

His Majesty replied to speeches of welcome in English and in French.

Those of us who have passed that way have followed the triumphal tour of the King and Queen of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific and back again to the tumult of Niagara Falls; and, thanks to the brilliant reports in the Press, we have revisited the magnificent Continent, its great cities, growing townships, spacious vistas, prairies, glorious snow-clad mountains, tumbling streams and flashing rivers, from sea to sea; heard the echoing volume of human voices acclaiming the King and Queen, the music of bands demanding "God Save the King," and acclaiming "Canada, O Canada" which thrilled our heart-strings.

Perhaps the most impressive scene was in the magnificent Parliament House, Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, where Their Majesties received a truly royal welcome.

Their Majesties, after having been greeted by the Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir, took their stand under a canopy of red and gold above which the Royal Standard flew.

The King, wearing Field Marshal's uniform, took the Royal Salute from a guard of honour of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, saluted the Colour, and inspected

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