

I QUOTE the passage, which it would be well for some of our Nursing Associations to read, mark, and learn:—

"I should wish to state that there is one rule from which we never depart—the work must be absolutely unsectarian. We have nothing to do with religious work. We train Nurses to look after the sick and suffering body, and we never allow the Nurses who are connected with the Institute or Associations that affiliate with us to act the part of district visitors and combine the mission woman and the Nurse. I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion that we are right. If this were not insisted upon, the Nurse would often be regarded as a proselytiser, and the nursing work in general would be suspected of having some other aim. We train Nurses of all denominations, and always try to supply the Nurse most suited to the particular place for which she is wanted. The kind, tender, gentle, sympathising Nurse will, by her skill and patience, tell of a deep love which she bears to suffering humanity: that is her proper work, and, so far as she is concerned, is full of religion and enough for her to do."

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At the last Council Meeting of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, Miss EMILY MANSEL resigned her appointment as Inspector of Nurses, and Miss PETER the Superintendent of the Scottish Branch was appointed in her place. The following resolution was proposed by the Duke of WESTMINSTER and seconded by Sir JAMES PAGET:—

"That the cordial thanks of the Institute be given to Miss MANSEL for all the efficient and painstaking work she has done in various ways in connection with the Institute since its foundation."

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THE silver badge of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute has been presented by the Council to the superintendents of the chief training centres for district Nurses in affiliation with the Institute: viz., Miss Mansel, Inspector of Nurses; Miss Peter, Superintendent, Scottish Branch, Edinburgh; Miss Dunn, Superintendent, Irish Branch, Dublin; Miss Hughes, Superintendent, Central Home, Bloomsbury Square; Miss Stains, Superintendent, of District Home, Liverpool; Miss Holloway, Superintendent, Chief Training Home, Rural District Branch, Worcester; Miss Heath, Superintendent, Welsh Branch, Cardiff.

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DR. OSWALD BROWNE has published a lecture given to the Nurses of the Metropolitan Hospital. It is entitled "Some thoughts about Nursing," and I feel sure that all Nurses will benefit by reading those "Thoughts." Dr. BROWNE has evidently gained his experience of Nursing "under the three years system," and the pith of his advice is: learn Nursing by observation, learn Nursing by long, patient contact with sickness in all its phases—in close, hourly contact with the sick in the Hospital ward. He is evidently no believer in the heaven-born genius of to-day, who is to flit through our wards for a few paltry months, and then arise,

cap-a-pie, fit to cope with any emergency. But I will quote a few of his wise words:—

"I have said so much of observation, for I am convinced that it is at the very heart of things for all of us. Certainly, looking back upon the past, one sees quite clearly that the really great Physicians of all times have been pre-eminently men of observation, who, gathering their experience patiently and slowly by the bedside of the sick, and from accurate and simple observation of the facts of disease, gained an instinctive, almost prophetic, insight into the Physiognomy of Disease. And I think that many of us are able to recall some of the old style of Nurses who possessed in a rare degree something of this same instinctive power of insight, and who "knew their patients" as not all Nurses of the new style know them. It was by simple observation that they gained this power of second sight, and by that infinite capacity for taking pains which is akin to genius."

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THE "Nurses' Bitter Cry" still occupies a column every day of our contemporary *The Morning Leader*, and the quotations from its correspondents are interesting, as it reaches a class of readers who do not see a professional journal like our own. "Five London Students" rush into the fray, and in the true "London" style repudiate the fact of there being thirteen typhoids in one ward—in fact, repudiate the Nurse, her statements, everything." "Methinks these gentlemen do protest too much:" any way, their denials do not include the statements that the Nurses are thoroughly over-worked (84 hours a week being the mild allowance), with only three weeks holiday in two years, doled out seven days at a time including journeys!!! I should like to see these valorous youths throw themselves into the breach and relieve guard. How many of them would come on duty on the second day at 7 a.m.; the experiment would be interesting. We Nurses know how easy it is to lounge into the ward at 10 o'clock, when the wards are clean and in order; how easy to know the temperature of a patient when found already charted; how easy to put on a dressing which has been already prepared by the Nurse; how easy to use—and leave dirty—innumerable pots and pans, and walk away to wash one's hands with lordly unconcern, oblivious of the fact that all the litter and débris must be cleared away, and pans repolished. It is no grudging service which Nurses render to their medical confrères, and I am sure, if doctors knew how Nurses have to work and suffer, they would do battle on our behalf.

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"GRATITUDE," writing from the Old Kent Road to our contemporary, says:—

"As one who has spent five months in the London Hospital I can speak from personal knowledge of the positively cruel conditions under which the Nurses of that institution have to labor. Some of the duties of the probationers, especially are such, as a charwoman would scorn to perform; so hard worked are they, in fact, at nine o'clock at night, I have seen them scarcely able to drag themselves about the ward. In a ward of 17 patients, a single Nurse—not a staff

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