

Nursing as a Fine Art.

BY NURSE DORA.

— "The Ideal is the only Real." —

IDEAL NURSING is an art which embodies all that is Christlike. It is the daily offering up of sacrifice. It is the laying of self on the altar of love—born of obligations never to be repaid. It is the glorious discipline of an utter self-abnegation—the constant struggle to crucify self. It is the tenderest consideration for others and their sufferings. It is the patient, attentive hearing of many a sad and weary tale. It is the firm and gentle handling of another human body. It is the careful and regular administration of such medicine as may tend to soothe and heal. It is the constant, patient *watching*, ever kind and gentle. It is the inspiration and establishment of a calm and trustful confidence, which will wholly relieve the sufferer of the wearisome task of thinking for himself. To sum up, it is the unwearied application of special *trained* gifts, united to a heart full of love and pity, for sickness and suffering, wherever it may be found. Nothing short of this will accomplish ideal Nursing.

Vocation.—No woman should take up the solemn and difficult position of nursing sick folk unless she possesses a decided talent for the great responsibilities which would devolve upon her. We have, each one of us, *special gifts*, and it is demanded of us to use and develop those which we possess, and not those given to others.

High Standard.—It will readily be conceded that to have the highest standards of what things can and should be, is good, for although we may not attain to the ever-growing aspirations of the soul, there always remains something to be sought after. We cannot pitch our Nursing Standard too high; it is of Christ himself. It never seeks itself—self is lost in unwearied efforts for the well-being of others. The heart is filled to overflowing with love and heavenly sympathy. Speech and actions alike breathe of fullest fellow-feeling.

Motive.—In the sight of Heaven, *all* our actions are justified or otherwise, according to the measure of purity of motive. In undertaking so sacred a task as that of Nursing, we should probe our hearts' deepest recesses for ought therein that defiles, and never cease the heroic endeavour to banish all and everything that could conflict with purity of motive. So sadly, much good is left undone by the terribly paralysing thought of what the world will think and say of us. We are first answerable to ourselves, to the high and noble thoughts so beautifully given us. Then to thyself be true; answer to thyself, and let the work, *well done*, be thy reward. Pure motive rises, as a cleansing fire, high above all earthly con-

siderations. Let us *will* to have purity of motive, and so much that is genuine will be the outcome.

Qualifications.—Bodily and mental vigour. A pure mind in a pure body. Health stamped in unmistakable characters on a wholly neat and clean appearance. Capabilities of no mean order to be deft, quick, expert of hand and finger, sympathetic, and firm of touch and eye, that always sees and yet does not always seem to see; a keen development of all the senses; a deep well of patience, never to be exhausted; a gentle step, a constant and careful cultivation of the tones of voice, a cultured mind, refined intelligence, adaptable disposition, *obedient* kindly heart; these points, and many others, one would wish combined in one's Ideal Nurse. Our Ideal Nurse will also have much common sense, be intensely practical, ready for every emergency, skilful at makeshifts should scientific appliances not be near the hand.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

WE have received from Messrs. MOWBRAY, of Oxford, and 65, Farringdon Street, E.C., some samples of a very beautiful series of these. The designs are for the most part small reproductions from some of the great Masters of Christian Art, such as Raffaele's "Madonna di San Sisto," and "Madonna della Sedia," and Fra Angelico's "Angels." Others, though original, are evidently in their stern simplicity, suggested by the works of the early Italians. The decorative borders harmonise well, both in drawing and colour, with the main designs, likewise the lettering of the texts and poems, though a few here and there are printed in some new-fangled types which the publishers will do well to discard in favour of fifteenth and sixteenth century examples, which were the work of artists, and are never likely to be beaten. As we have often noticed, the cheaper and simpler are, for the most part, the more artistic cards, and we commend these unhesitatingly to our readers. We should not omit to notice too, a few of illuminated examples, which are tasteful in design and carefully executed.

LAVENDER WATER.

(Mr. R. ELWELL-NAISH, Elm Grove, Southsea.)

This water we find very delicate in aroma, which it retains after being used, for a considerable time. A little rubbed on the hands will be found decidedly refreshing for the patient and nurse alike; as also would the Eau de Cologne (by the same maker) to which is due quite as much praise, if not more, as that given to the Lavender water.

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