

snorting on the stairs, and she was before me. Short and stout she was; her face gleamed with self-satisfaction, and had rather a calf-like expression. Oh, how tired I got of that face! Three hours every day was the time allotted for being rubbed; three quarts of milk, a pint of beef-tea besides, in addition to my regular meals, was what I was ordered, and what I really did manage to take.

To enliven my dulness, I suppose, my masseuse used to bring me each day the record of all the murders and other horrors, which she had seen on the notice boards and had heard cried in the streets, and she never seemed in the least aware how weak one's nerves were from lying in bed and being shut away from all active exertion, nor how these horrors made one creep.

All the murders that had taken place in her lifetime (some forty years) were also recounted, with great surprise that I did not remember the details of each one. She was absolutely without education and without tact, and had such an unpleasant domineering way with her that towards the close of the first week I felt as though I could bear her no longer. But then my nerves were in that weak state I could hardly summon the resolution to dismiss her. So another week—yes, another fortnight, nearly—I endured her, but meantime I felt the worry her presence caused me was really counteracting the good that the massage was doing me. Occasionally the *chef* came in, and with two of them I felt powerless. But meantime, through my maid, I made enquiries about another masseuse, and at last, with a violent effort, I dismissed the "calf." My heart began to beat more freely.

The next day my new masseuse came, and, oh, what a relief it was! She was just the very reverse of the other—well-educated, lively, intelligent. I used quite to look forward to her coming, and have since recommended her to many of my friends.

At last my six weeks were over, but I did not feel as well as I had hoped I should, and though I hardly liked to avow it, I began to wonder, was the Doctor right after all, and was massage in my case a failure because I had it at home?

But, obedient to orders, I went to the sea for a fortnight, my strength came again, and I became what I had not been for five years, a healthy woman. This is now six months ago and I am growing stronger every month.

Moral.—Try massage, if you like, but trust your Doctor to choose your masseuse. CONA.

THERE is no true lasting delight without humility.—FENELON.

## THE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

THE following letter appeared in our contemporary, the *Lancet*, last week:—

"Sirs,—In the *Lancet* of June 15th last I have read an annotation to the effect that the Registration of 'Trained' Nurses has 'advanced into the region of practical politics, that its enforcement by State authority is probably within a measurable distance,' and that Medical men are keenly feeling the importance of such a course and urge its adoption. A pamphlet by Miss Lückes, Matron of the London Hospital, entitled 'What will Trained Nurses gain by joining the British Nurses' Association?' is criticised in severe terms, and the question is asked whether the authorities of the Hospital share the views of the Matron, and, if so, they are asked to extricate themselves from 'an altogether untenable position.'

"As one who has been long interested in the training and well-being of Nurses, may I crave a few lines of your space in which to state my opinion that the proposals to institute a Register of 'Trained' (?) Nurses have, in my opinion, *not* been adequately considered by the Medical Profession; that I deem the pamphlet of Miss Lückes an attempt to deal temperately with a very debatable question; and that the project of the British Nurses' Association, as at present intelligible, is fraught with danger to the best interests of the public, the Medical Profession, and the Nurses themselves? Your annotation assumes that 'Trained Nurses' only are to be Registered.

"I learn from Bye-law 4 of the British Nurses' Association that not only those who are trained in a public institution, but 'women who have been engaged in Private Nursing' during three years, will be eligible for Membership. What evidence, therefore, of training is thus afforded? It is not even yet settled by the Executive whether or not a theoretical and practical examination shall test the capabilities of candidates. It is true that after the granting of the Charter it is proposed that applicants shall be registered only 'on terms satisfactory to Physicians and Surgeons as evidence of their having received systematic training.' Who shall define these terms or explain this phrase? It is perfectly obvious that the conditions of training in various institutions will be very unequal. It must be equally obvious that if the scheme became successful, there would be a tendency to 'level down' those who have been instructed at existing training schools. It appears to me a far more desirable course that through the length and breadth of the land good institutions for the training of Nurses should be established and strengthened, all with a wholesome rivalry to excel in their methods of instruction, rather than that a minimum pass

*previous page*

*next page*