

can attain the right of pension, while they still are fully able to work. There is a fund for Nurses, Princess CAROLINE'S Legacy (*Arveprindsesse Carolines Legat*) of about 26,000 kroner (about £1,430) the interest of which (about £50 a year), enlarged by an annual gift of 400 kroner (about £22), is distributed amongst women who are trained as Nurses, and who have been Nurses for at least five years.

### Nursing Scrubbers.

— BY MRS. ORMISTON CHANT. —

IN last week's issue of the NURSING RECORD there was a letter to the Editor, written under the pseudonym "Thorough," which told a pitiful tale of Hospital ward drudgery, and it is to be feared that similar wrongs are tolerated in many Hospitals throughout the land.

It has always appeared to me that a most sweeping reform is needed in the apportioning of the duties of ward Nurses and probationers.

Nurses ought not to do scrubbing and cleaning. One of the desirable points in a Nurse is that she should have soft, sensitive hands, and keep them as nice as she can; and this is simply impossible when there are daily ordeals of bath-brick and oil, and strong soda and soap, to be gone through. Then also the daily work of bed-making, lifting heavy patients, tending and waiting on them, and the miles walked up and down, and in and out the wards, are sufficient tax on the physical strength without adding to them the fatigue of scrubbing and washing.

It is very easy for dilettanti dabblers in Nursing, or apostles of the old school, to plead for scrubbing and cleaning to be done by Nurses and probationers on the score of its being "necessary for them to know how to do it." But the combination of Nurse and ward-maid is as unfair as would be the combination of governess and housemaid, milliner and housemaid, or medical-student and window-cleaner. Any woman of most ordinary intelligence can learn how to scrub in the same way that a poet learns how to be a poet—by being one; and it is grievous to think how many good Nurses have been lost to the world, and themselves, through the undue hardness of the work put on them in the days of their training.

The probationer has come into the Hospital to learn Nursing, not house-work; and if she has not learnt enough of the latter, before she entered the Hospital, to meet any emergencies that private Nursing may face her with, her previous training

has not been such as to promise much for her progress in the art of Nursing. A certain fever Hospital which came prominently before the public some little time ago is a grievous sinner in this respect, and its assistant Nurses are—or, at any rate, were, a few months ago, when they came to pour out the story of their wrongs to the public—terribly overworked.

"It is simply cruel," said one of them; "there is quite enough to do in bed-making, washing the patients twice a day, sponging, taking temperatures, serving meals and the incidental feeding between whiles, and a thousand other things that belong to Nursing the helpless sick, without wasting your strength on rough and tiring work, such as scrubbing out linen cupboards and lockers twice a week; scrubbing deal tables and cleaning out bath-rooms and lavatories every day; besides boilers, kettles, lamps and utensils to be kept spotless."

Of course it is very important that a Nurse should be an expert in knowing how all things connected with the Nursing of the sick should be kept and cleaned, and it will doubtless make her a much more valuable Nurse if her fund of information on all these points enables her to give instruction to those whose work it is to be scrubbers and cleaners; but it is no more making a good Nurse of her to give her large lobby tables to scrub, than it would be to set her to wash the patients' sheets and blankets. It is of the utmost importance to the patient that his or her Nurse should not be flurried or worried in manner, whether that patient is the possessor of a royal carriage or "a little donkey-shay"; and to be assured of genially-given, tender attention at a moment's notice is as essential to the sick charwoman, as to the sick duchess—the fever-stricken dockerman, as the fever-stricken prince; and Nursing like medical care should know nothing of caste or class, but like God's sunshine, be for all sorts and conditions without fear or favour. But if a Nurse is watching the clock with a painful consciousness that her morning work is not nearly done, and that she will be extremely tired when it is, that call at the far-end of the ward for a drink, and that one nearer for the lifting up of pillows under a piteously aching head, will scarcely be responded to with the calm kindness that is so vitally important an element in the treatment of illness.

Hardness begets hardness, and hard treatment deadens the delicate fibres of character, and checks their growth. That kind of tenderness which is strong, patient, cheerful, and the result of principle as well as emotion, is just the cardinal virtue in both Nurse and doctor. But Hospital life, I fear, is not yet universally so conducted as to encourage it.

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