

It is to be hoped that by these two examples we have given reasonable grounds for the generalization that woman fails *relatively* where she is working "*interchangeably*" with man and succeeds *absolutely* where she is working with her own sex alone.

It will be said, and said correctly, that the nursing profession, in its higher grades, consists of women of an altogether higher calibre than those met with in commercial employment. This may at once be granted.

The difference is, however, one of *degree* and not of *kind*. Both are still women. Thus men who are administrators or organizers can recognize in such women abilities equal to their own, a recognition which is essentially sexless.

Such a recognition, however, does not in the least conflict with, or prevent, the natural homage of man to the essential femininity of woman nor does a woman in the least defeminise herself as she rises to positions of responsibility.

Woman has not, and will not achieve greatness by aping man's *mental* methods. Let her indeed rest assured that her mentality is not inferior to that of man, but let her never forget that, though her mind is indeed an instrument of unequal power, yet it is a very different instrument and to be treated as such.

Let her remember it is a woman's mind and not a man's, and let her train and develop it upon its own natural lines, and she will attain success ; but if she lay violent hands upon it, and endeavours to constrain it into a mould abhorrent to its very nature, the result will be failure.

G. E. W. and S. M. B.

### THE BEAUTY OF SERVICE.

NURSES who lead such strenuous practical lives, need sometimes to detach themselves from the hurry and stress inseparable from their work, and to dwell on the inner beauty of service. There is a danger of our losing the ideal in the practical, and when this happens, our work must be of a correspondingly low level.

In the nursing world, as in other spheres of activity and science, there is the constant striving after improvement, and efficiency and progress are the order of the day. If we in the East would keep in line with our profession in the West, we must also seek to improve if we would attain that perfection which is our common aim. And the improvement must be fundamental. We must lay the foundation well and secure, if we would have the edifice beautiful and perfect.

To go to the root of the matter then, every woman who takes up nursing as a profession, should have as her motive power the very highest, a desire to serve God and humanity; thus alone can we ensure a high level of work. But we cannot ignore the material which, side by side with the spiritual, forms our life. One's bread and butter has to be earned, and that is one reason many women enter the profession; but that need *not* be incompatible with consecrated service. Very often, the honest desire not to be a burden on our people, to even help a particular dear one, entails much courageous self-sacrifice, and lays the foundation for the nobler and wider aspiration of service to God, and our fellow-men in general.

Perhaps a few practical hints on how we may attain and preserve that beauty which shall glorify and sanctify our work, may not be amiss. We must have staying power. So often the hurry of our training schools affects our daily communings with the Divine Spirit who inspires and strengthens as no human agency can.

"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

Fortified by Divine Strength, the daily jars which fret and wear nerves, lose their potency for evil, and trivial matters which are apt to occupy our horizon to the exclusion of better and wider influences for good, assume their right proportion.

One of the helps to this wider outlook is the cultivation of every faculty. And this is a most important duty in a nurse's life, for, by discharging it fully, she is fitting herself for the many opportunities for sympathy and help which come in her way, not only in the hospital wards, but also in private work. Perhaps more so in the latter, where she often has to be mind, ear, and eye, as well as hands, to those temporarily deprived by sickness of these blessings. Therefore, nurses should keep in touch with the thought and movement of the day, with current literature, if only in the daily newspaper. This entails some self-control, for often we feel too tired to read more than a light novel, or go for a drive in our off-duty time.

The trite old saying: "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," applies very truly to those nurses who take such a keen interest in their work as to exclude every other. They can talk of nothing else but the events of the day in wards, and, as a rule, mainly of their share in them; these are misguided enthusiasts. Far wiser is it for a nurse to take her share of recreation, and return refreshed and filled anew with the joy of service than to become stale and worn, and unable to give of her best in consequence.

And, in passing, I must touch on those who in their service demand their rights. In our profession, as in others, the workers enjoy certain

privileges which they have earned. But in our profession more particularly, it is an honour with us to give ourselves fully where humanity needs, and not to stint or grudge our time and strength in the service we have consecrated them to.

"I would not be a worker for mine own bread, or an hired  
For mine own profit—Oh, I would be free  
To work for others; love, so earned of them,  
Should be my wages, and my diadem."

A band of women educated on these lines is bound to bring forth noble work and be a power for good. In this country where the atmosphere is charged with the effects of heathenism, indifference to human needs and suffering, and irresponsibility of highest duties to mankind in general, it behoves us to be more than specially careful to hold the highest traditions of our race and our creed more sacred and more secure. I am sure therein lies the secret of progress or retrogression of nursing in India. If each nurse has her mind awakened to the great responsibility each has to her generation and to her womanhood, there is no height which she cannot scale, be her disadvantages in this country what they may. The secret lies not in the practical details to be mastered but in the spiritual and mental to be attained and preserved.

L. E. MACKENZIE.

#### "PREPARATION FOR AN EMERGENCY MAJOR OPERATION IN A NATIVE HOUSE."

WE will suppose the district doctor is called to a case at a distance from her hospital. She finds a case for immediate operation; for instance, Cæsarian Section, or Ectopic-Gestation, where both speed and antisepsis are necessary. She sends for the doctor to come to help her. What should the nurse do to prepare most quickly, and yet ensure proper antisepsis?

The purpose of this paper is to show how one might prepare, with most rapidity for such an operation, both the room and the patient, utilizing the materials to be found in a native house.

On arrival, set to work every available person, 1st set one to boiling water; 2nd, send one to the bazaar, to buy coffee and salt, for stimulant enema, and saline infusion; 3rd, have one get clean cloths, soak these in sol. bichloride and hang out in the sun; 4th have another bring the household utensils, examine these and choose such bowls, brass and aluminium plates, etc., as would be useful,