

II.

There has been so much said against the present-day nursing spirit that I should like to say a word in its defence.

Not because I rather tend to champion forlorn hopes, but because I do not think this a forlorn hope. I believe the nursing spirit is very much alive, but that it is rather hopelessly smothered under its new clothing at present.

We acquire the habit of blaming the spirit of the age rather carelessly without stopping to realise the spirit of the age as it applies to nursing.

The growth of preventive medicine, and treatment to a much greater extent on psychological lines, rather tends to make the average woman much more intolerant of illness generally.

The tendency to rush cases through in big hospitals to clear the way for more, takes the place of the old leisurely treatment. Added to this is the fact that few women are content in these days to give all their youth and strength so tirelessly and to be cast aside when spent and worn. In the nursing profession a good nurse spends herself as in no other walk in life. We are trying to remedy this, but there is still much to be done for the private nurse. Nurses now must keep closely in touch with new movements; there is too much at stake not to, and in attempting to keep up, they sometimes appear to be not closely in touch with their work, and to treat it lightly.

Most people who think are learning a wider, finer philosophy of life, and I believe the future nurses will possess this and learn to apply it in their work as part of the care of humanity. The quiet but sure working for the common cause—humanity—the Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., Ambulance Corps, Girl Guides, etc., are all more or less imbued with the nursing spirit; they prove that it is alive, and I must believe that a large percentage of the women who take up nursing do so for the work's sake, not just because it is an honourable profession.

Having taken it up the best nurses learn to love it, and from these we chose our responsible people.

Few people agree with me when I say I prefer to train the idealists before the very practical people. The idealists will go on through anything, even after the wholly practical person will finish up. The idealist never believes "it" is finished.

The truest nursing spirit is found in the idealist, and these nurses go quietly on, do what they have to do, and are not much in evidence generally. Only when an outstanding nurse combines idealism with a practical nature is she noticed.

Do not let us grow into the habit of overlooking these quiet people in the weariness of having the others always before us.

When I see the tired faces of the sisters who stay on after a long day to do just a little more for an almost hopeless case; or see nurses' faces light up because a tiny premature baby (which only by the most constant and loving care has held on to life at all) has learned to "really cry," when almost all the staff rejoice because a very ill man or woman has recovered enough to be put out on the balcony for the first time, then I do not despair of the nursing spirit.

I know we must battle hard in the years to come to hold and foster it. In all the changes and readjustments it will not be easy to fight through, but the old spirit of the founder is still extant, and something as definite as that cannot be lost.

We know thoughts are concrete, so do not let us even think the nursing spirit is dead, it is only temporarily more or less smothered under all its new clothing.

SNIFF UP AND GARGLE

Warm Fluenzol to soothe inflammation of the throat and nasal passages and drive away colds and sore throats. For **INFLUENZA** swallow

FLUENZOL
