

froth of life, will no longer satisfy. What then of deeper value have you given your child for the years ahead? Let your mother heart once grasp the fact that development of a definite sense of vocation will in no wise detract from the fulness of life, but will very materially add to it, and you will insure to your child a lasting inward joy that will remain a well of blessing, in the face of all of sorrow that the future years may hold.

PRAYER FOR MOTHERS:

Holy Jesus, Who art the friend and lover of all little children, we pray Thee to have in Thy holy keeping these lambs of Thy flock. Grant that in these impressionable years of their lives, they may come under good and holy influences, so that in their riper years they may be strong to withstand temptation, and be glad to yield their lives wholly to Thee. Inspire us that we may be wise and holy directors, and guide each child in the choice of a life vocation. If it please Thee to call to special work any of these children, grant that their ears may be open to receive Thy message, and that they may obey willingly and cheerfully even unto death.

NURSING IDEALS

By a N.2— Trained Nurse.

"The highest mystical vision, the sight of the Holy Grail, comes only to him that is pure from self and looks on the bleeding wound that sin has left in man, and is compassionate and gives himself to service and healing."

In these materialistic days it is well to pause, on taking up a profession of any kind, and try to think: Why do I this or that? Why am I drawn or inclined to take up such a profession? In fact—(1), what is the motive behind? Perhaps in no other profession is this so necessary as in the nursing one, with its endless and vast responsibility and opportunity.

The Motive Behind our Decision.—The highest ideal that we all have, of course, is to dedicate our nursing to our Lord. It is then to Him and for Him that we nurse. In the very early history of Christian nursing we find women who dedicated their lives to the tending of the sick, and in doing so believed that they were themselves tending the mystical body of Christ: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." It is to Him and for Him, then, that we nurse,

He being the Head and we His members in that mystical Body. His Body the Church.

(2). The motto. And now that we have a motive, let us find a motto. There are so many, but the most beautiful of all is, I think, to be found in that wonderful book, "The Imitation of Christ." Let me quote it here: "Blush not to serve thy neighbour for the love of Jesus Christ."

(3). Responsibility. Responsibility and opportunity are linked so closely together that it is a little hard to differentiate one from the other. But in this theme both lie in the spiritual rather than the bodily sphere. You women of New Zealand have a vast responsibility put upon you. Let me illustrate my meaning with a true story: A Christian nurse once attending a rough working man of no education was asked the following question as he pointed to the silver cross she wore: "Why do you wear that bauble?" The nurse, at a loss for words, replied: "Simply because I like to." Looking into her face, he caught the religious atmosphere brought to him by her. "Yes," he replied; "it is the lasses like you who should wear the cross." Let us remember, then, it is "lasses like us" who may not only wear but carry the cross high. There is a beautiful old saying, that the cross is "God's gift to His friends." Then one might follow with the words of an old Scotch woman: "Ye'll follow, and gin He offers you His cross ye'll no refuse it, for He aye carries the heaviest end Himself."

(4). Opportunity. Many a time, too, will come the opportunity of service, not merely in binding up the broken limb or the bleeding wound, but in many ways of helping your neighbour. Let me illustrate my meaning by enumerating some of the characters which came before our Lord in the days of His ministry. Similar people will probably pass through your hands: "The wistful heart of the mother; the timidity of Nicodemus; the melancholy of Thomas; the slowness of Philip; the proud bashfulness of the woman of Samaria; the hot childishness of Peter; the staring helplessness of some poor sufferer; the young ruler's besetting reservation; the disciples' obstinate stupidity and blindness, and the sweet, shy hearts of little children, who know so much and they themselves unknowingly hunger to be known." Will it be asked of you: "Tell me, my son, have they seen Christ in thee?"

The countless interruptions when off duty give another opportunity for ser-

vice. Walter Hinton, in his "Scale of Perfection," writes: "And though thou be at prayer or thy devotions that thou thinkest loath to break off, for that thou thinkest that thou oughtest not to leave God for to speak with anyone, I think not so in this case; for if thou be wise thou shalt not leave God but thou shalt find Him and have Him and see Him in thy neighbours' as well as in prayer. And in another manner, if thou canst love thy neighbour well, to speak with thy neighbour with discretion shall be no hindrance to thee. If he come to tell thee his distress or trouble, and to be comforted by thy speech, hear him gladly and suffer him to say what he will for the ease of his own heart, and when he hath done comfort him, if thou canst, gladly, gently, and charitably."

And now comes a little advice: (a). Don't. Don't join the nursing profession because the uniform is pretty. A girl once said to me: "Oh, I would love to be a nurse; it is so thrilling to wear the uniform!" How many nurses would answer: "And far more thrilling to take it off?"

(b) Don't join the nursing profession because it is dull at home. Have you ever realised how much duller it might be away? "Punch" takes a delightful attitude here: "And why, my dear, have you taken up nursing?" says the old padre. "Oh, it is so dull at home. Mother's got rheumatism, and father is blind; so I thought I would."

(c) Do have a sense of humour. It has, you know, been called "that crowning virtue of saints, that sound, good sense, with a little sparkle upon it as of delicate humour."

Let us remember, then: (i) A motive; (ii) a motto; (iii) responsibility; (iv) opportunity; two "don'ts" and one "do." There is a beautiful book which all nurses should read: "In Watchings Often," by Archdeacon Holmes. Try and get it; it will put before you the nursing profession in the most fascinating way, with the highest ideals combined. Meanwhile let us remember we are free to choose our profession

Let me give you these beautiful words to end with:—

"I and my valiant ones fight in the
van
Where nought is sure but wound
and glorious shame;
But ye are free—it is your will to
dare
And share my great adventure for
the world."