

of the great metropolis shelter. Medical aid they have always at command; skilled nurses were beyond their reach until the Victorian Order was established. But can it be supposed that if medical attendance was not already secured for these poor people, that this would not have been provided for in advance of the nursing scheme. In this country of long journeys, and trackless ways, the idea is to ignore the medical man and substitute the nurse, stress being laid on the proposal to educate the nurses in the various hospitals, and have them undergo a qualifying examination before they are launched as quasi medical practitioners. Though, as nurses they were educated, as nurses they become qualified, but they are entirely incompetent to act independently in cases of disease or injury. Many medical men can call to mind the demoralized condition of a nurse, though for years in the wards of a lying-in hospital, at the occurrence of a profuse post partum hemorrhage. A woman is a woman, though this fad of woman's rights is bandied about on this continent, with the desire of usurping men's occupations, which, if ever realized, will work more woe to womankind than the apple of Eden has already done for them.

The strange remark of a medical man at a meeting of ladies interested in the movement, "that there were too many young medical men already," was greeted with a round of applause, and one of the ladies stated "that the positions of type-writers, shorthand writers, school marmes, etc.," were overcrowded, and the young women must seek other openings. Whatever may be said, under whatever guise the extension of the Victorian Order of Nurses to Manitoba and the Northwest, in lieu of educated medical men, "though they may have the good fortune to be young," whether advocated as a manifestation of our loyalty to the person of the Queen, a desire to ameliorate the hardships and privations incident to settlers in a new country, or for the relief of suffering humanity, the establishment of an inferior order of female medical prac-

tioners, opening up another outlet for unemployed young women, at the expense of the medical profession, is the concealed desire at this side of the Atlantic. Hundreds of young women can find employment in domestic work, enjoy happy, comfortable homes, as thousands of their sisterhood do in the United Kingdom, living their lives honored and respected. But, the greater freedom which naturally surrounds man's life and occupations is having an alluring effect on the gentler sex, who seek occupations which secure to them the greatest freedom, and which not infrequently proves to be the broad way that leads to destruction. If the proper and much-called-for steps are taken to settle qualified medical men in these districts, where the government have through their agents induced these people to settle in the country, paying them what it was suggested the nurses were to receive, \$500 a year, the nurses to act under the medical men, the proposition will be gladly welcomed. But, as a substitution for the physician, the nurse scheme will never receive the countenance of the profession.

At a meeting held at the city hall, Commissioner Robertson, Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Order of Nurses, gave a long account of the aim and objects of the order. It appears that among his somewhat slim audience his reasoning gained him some converts. A member of the audience expressed regret that the medical profession was not represented, as they would have certainly been won over. But the digest of his remarks, as given in the daily papers, in no way alters the already expressed opinions of the medical profession in this city, in fact, it rather strengthens it. We learn that already applications have been received from John Hopkins and Bellevue hospitals for positions. This cannot be acceptable news to the unemployed nurses now in the country. The attempt to connect the loyalty of the people with the scheme is, to say the least, not to be commended. Canadians are the loyalest of the loyal as a people. But they certainly are not