

NURSE AND PATIENT

aimless round of social duties, or in spasmodic efforts at Church work. Such a woman needs a vocation, a calling which will satisfy her heart, and she should be able to find it in nursing without entering a regular school or working in ecclesiastical harness.

An organized nursing guild, similar to the German Deaconesses, could undertake the care of large or small institutions, without the establishment of training schools in the ordinary sense of the term. Such a guild might be entirely secular, with St. James, the Apostle of practical religion, as the patron. It would be of special advantage to smaller hospitals, particularly to those unattached to Medical Schools, and it would obviate the existing anomaly of scores of training schools, in which the pupils cannot get an education in any way commensurate with the importance of the profession. In the period of their training, the members of the Nursing Guild could be transferred from one institution to another until their education was complete. Such an organization would be of inestimable service in connection with District Nursing. The noble work of Theodore Fliedner should be repeated at an early day in this country. The Kaiserwerth Deaconesses have shown the world the way. I doubt if we have progressed in secularism far enough successfully to establish such guilds apart from church organizations. The