

The Rockwood Review.

must be pardoned.

The greatest reform ever instituted here though, was the development of the Training School for Nurses. When the craze for Hospital Nursing developed, it struck me that if the revolution in the management of the General Hospitals resulted in infinite good, the same improvement might be effected in our methods. What was a good thing in a General Hospital would certainly be a better thing in a Hospital for the Insane. The result was the establishment of our Training School on its present lines. That it was one of the first schools of the kind established in America is a matter of pride, that it is still the only one in Ontario is a matter of regret. The hospital idea has been inculcated from one end of the institution to the other and we live in a different moral atmosphere from that which existed in former days. The patients are happier, nurses take an intelligent interest in their care and know that they are nursing people suffering from a disease, viz., insanity. I wish that enthusiastic politicians would cease their petty bickerings over expenditures, then it might be possible to extend the whole system of training in nursing to the male attendants, who at present, for obvious reasons cannot be developed as we could wish. Their time will eventually come though.

The Training School has been an excellent thing for the nurses themselves. Many of them are now heads of important institutions—our head nurse in the main wards is a graduate of our own school, and all who have left have done well. Those who have deserted the nursing profession have gone in for matrimony as a general rule and seem to be satisfied. While talking to one of our patients a few days ago I learned something. She told me that after intricate calculations she had satisfied herself that the average nurse had ten chances to one of getting married, when compared with the

woman. She explained it as follows: All of the girls who think they are good looking go in for nursing, all boys who are ambitious go in for the medical profession. Good looks backed up by a pretty uniform are more than the average young doctor can stand. The result is inevitable. I may say that this patient, who is no longer young, wishes to go in for nursing and has asked for the next vacancy on our staff.

Some time ago the Local Branch of the National Council of Women was greatly exercised over a series of resolutions which the main branch wished carried into effect. There were several recommendations one of which was regarding the appointment of women doctors on our staff. The only point of difference between the National Council and myself was this, viz., what to do with her. The National Council wanted her on the Women's Ward. I decided that she would do better work among the men who could not help but benefit from the æsthetic suggestions she would surely make. As for the women patients, some of them insisted that when the National Council of Women adopted Doctors of the female sex it would be time enough for them to submit to the experiment. Another suggestion made was that separate hospitals should be built in connection with the different Asylums. Truly a prophet is without honor in his own country. Here in Kingston was the first Hospital building of the kind suggested, and our good women had never heard of it. Truly it was time to do a little tooting of our own horn. Of course the suggestion was a good one if it had not been out of date. Now I have a much better scheme to propose, something really worthy of the enthusiasm of the National Council of Women. In the first place to endeavor to get all politicians to leave the institutions alone, and cease making a virtue of too great economy. It is true that Ontario institutions are