

first time a definite legal title on its members, such, for example, as a "Registered," or "Chartered," Nurse. Then it is equally assured that not only will this title be highly prized by its possessors, but as time goes on it will be made more and more difficult to obtain. In other words, the character of the Examinations, which must be passed before any Nurse can be Registered, will steadily increase in severity. We have pointed out the practical necessity that each Nurse should pass two professional examinations before she receives a Certificate of efficiency. The first, in theoretical subjects like elementary anatomy, physiology and hygiene, at the end of her first year; the second, in practical Nursing details and clinical work, at the conclusion of her term of training.

Where, then, will these Examinations be held? At present, as we all know, they are conducted at each Training School by the gentlemen who form its Lecturing Staff. In every other calling it is an acknowledged and strictly enforced rule that the Teacher should not be the Examiner, but that the knowledge of any subject, which has been derived from one man, can more impartially and justly be estimated and tested by another. Probably, therefore, in the coming time we shall find this carried out in the Nursing Examinations, and the Examiners will be quite distinct from the Lecturers. But the Registration body first appointed will doubtless accept accomplished facts. For it is, perhaps, the most marked characteristic of our race that we dislike violent innovations—that our very law has grown up bit by bit, built on precedent upon precedent.

Unlike our mercurial neighbours across the Channel, who wish a brand-new Constitution each time they change their form of Government—that is about once in every twenty years—the English nation rather prefers antique anomalies. So we are led strongly to believe that the Privy Council will not sanction any very revolutionary proposals, even were the British Nurses' Association to make them, which we do not for one moment imagine to be probable.

We presume, therefore, that the Registration Council, as, for want of a definite term, we may call it, will, to commence with, accept the Certificate granted by any existing Training School to its successful Students as full and sufficient evidence of their efficiency. Then on the strength of that Certificate the names of these Nurses would, we suppose, be entered on the Register, and their Training School would be responsible, therefore, to the public and the Council for the character and knowledge of the women they certificated. This, at least, is the system which has worked sufficiently well for Doctors. On the Medical Register is entered, in alphabetical order,

the names of qualified gentlemen, and against each, the Diplomas or Degrees in virtue of which the name is enrolled, and the College or University from which each such qualification was obtained. Consequently, each licensing body is, for the sake of its own reputation with the public at large, very careful both as to the personal character and professional acquirements of those for whom it makes itself morally responsible.

But it may be asked what the Council will do in the case of those Nurses who have been working—and have, perhaps, thoroughly learnt their work—in small Institutions to which no training school is attached? We have suggested that probably these workers would easily obtain their theoretical teaching upon the co-operative system, by the lectures on Anatomy and Physiology given at the largest Hospital in each district being open to the Probationers at all the surrounding Institutions.

But this does not cover the question of how the efficiency and knowledge of these scattered Nurses are to be tested. The only way in which, so far as we can see, this can be arranged, would be by independent examinations conducted under the authority of the Registration Council itself. In fact, we fail to understand in what other way such Nurses could prove their fitness to be placed on the Register. But if the principle be admitted that the Council should institute such examinations, the details are capable of comparatively easy solution. For it is plain, on the one hand, that few Nurses from Provincial towns could come to London for their examinations, and on the other, that their characters and conduct, which are such all-important matters, would be best explained by those under whom they have been trained.

Thus it appears to us that it will be found essential to appoint certain examiners to visit all the large centres of the country in turn, and to associate these with the local Medical men and Matrons in each district in conducting the necessary examinations. It would, we imagine, be easy thus to hold at least two Primary, and two Final Examinations each year in every part of the Kingdom, thus affording sufficiently frequent opportunities to all desirous of exhibiting their capacity as Nurses. We presume that a fee would have to be paid by each candidate, so as to cover the expenses of the scheme, but we imagine this would not be large, and—considering the manifold advantages which the system would afford to Provincial workers—that it would be very willingly paid.

Then as to the place where these examinations should be held. Seeing how mainly practical these must of necessity be, it is certain that they

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