

found that any period of training short of three years is unsatisfactory. This is decidedly welcome news to those who are really interested in Nursing work.

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MISS HUGHES, the Matron, is an active Member of the R.B.N.A., and is a Member of the Executive Committee. I must congratulate her upon being the first Matron of a Poor-Law Infirmary, who has placed this high standard of Nursing before the Local Government Board, and congratulate her upon their acceptance of it.

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THE Newcastle Cathedral Nurse and Loan Society, finding their Convalescent Home at Shotley too small for the requirements of their poorer patients, have taken steps to erect a new one at Hexham. The house will stand within its own grounds, and will accommodate twelve patients.

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LADY LUCY HICKS-BEACH opened a Convalescent Home for Children, which has been established at Highgate by the Santa Claus Society. The bright Wards, with their dainty cots, several of them already occupied, look on the breezy top of Highgate Hill. To little sufferers from spinal and hip disease, for whom it is mainly designed, and for cases requiring slight surgical attendance, the Home should prove a great boon. A short service having been conducted by the Vicar of Highgate, Lady Lucy declared the Institution open, and inspected the various Wards.

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THE *Lancet* has some remarks, the truth of which most Nurses will be able to heartily endorse: "We are very glad to find that an effort is being made to supply a known want in the medical charity of this country by founding a Home in which mortally afflicted people may peacefully end their days. By none is the need for such a Home more felt than by the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospitals, who from time to time have to discharge from their Wards patients for whom medical art can do no more, and who are unable to secure in their homes the comfort and attention that are sorely needed. It appears to us that the cases needing such a Home as it is proposed to found are those that comply with two conditions. On the one hand, they are those whose cases are not eligible for further stay in a Hospital, and are yet not of such a chronic nature as to fit them for admission to an Incurable Asylum: such are many cases of phthisis, of heart disease, and of cancer. On the other hand, their social position is such as to render them unsuitable for admission to the parish Infirmary: such are governesses, superior servants, and clerks. The managers of this new Home must be very

careful not to trench upon the work now done by Hospitals and Infirmarys; and if it is careful only to care for those who are not suitably provided for by these Institutions, it will form a most valuable addition to the medical charities of the country. The names of the Members of Council are a guarantee of the care which will be exercised in framing all rules and regulations, and we very cordially support the appeal of the Council to the generous consideration of our readers."

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WE believe that to Dr. Schofield, also a Member of the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A., this excellent scheme is due.

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GREAT sympathy is expressed in the Press for the R.B.N.A. for the extraordinary manner in which the President of the Board of Trade has refused its petition. We quote the following from the *Evening Standard*: "Unless some explanation that is at present not to be readily perceived is given, it will certainly appear that the Board of Trade has acted with unreasonable, and indeed unreasoning, severity in its answer to the petition of the Royal British Nurses' Association. The situation is simple. The Association desired to be incorporated under the Companies' Act, because this formality would have enabled it to take over trust funds—a sum of money which had been furnished for its use; and the sole object of the petition was a desire to avoid the word 'Limited,' the reason being that, if incorporated in the ordinary manner, the members could at any time wind it up, and divide the proceeds amongst themselves—a most improbable contingency, of course; but business must be done in a business-like fashion. It is understood that if an association does not trade for its own benefit, this word 'Limited' may be omitted by a dispensation from the Board of Trade, good cause for such omission being shown, as certainly it was here, for the Royal British Nurses' Association has enrolled over three thousand names, including many medical men of the highest standing. A petition against the Association was, however, presented, for motives said to be interested on the part of the objectors, and it is alleged that this petition contained statements which are untrue. Indignation arises from the further allegation that the petition induced Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to refuse the request of the Association even before its answer was heard. A question on the subject will doubtless be asked in the House; and it is to be hoped that the Board of Trade will be able to justify itself.

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