

in our largest institutions a position which is one not only of considerable responsibility, but of very great usefulness. As it is upon the Sisters of the Wards in a General Hospital, that the training of the Probationers must always and largely depend, the meeting arrived at a just conclusion, when it determined that the Matrons' Council would gain very considerably, both in influence and practical ability, by the inclusion of these workers. But it is understood that while the Associates will be entitled to read papers or to take part in the debates at General Meetings or Congresses, they will not be eligible for seats on the Executive Committee, nor to receive other privileges of membership.

The Constitution of the new Society, as defined by the bye-laws which were agreed to, appears to us to be both very wise and business-like, and the objects which the Council proposes to undertake, will, we doubt not, be successfully attained. The influence of the decisions at which the Council may, in future, arrive upon the questions affecting the term, or methods, of training for Nurses will naturally be very great, inasmuch as the Matrons represent individually the controlling power of their own nursing departments; and, therefore, any proposals to which they agree for the organisation of Nursing education in the future will certainly have great influence with their several Committees.

The key note of the movement was ably struck by the Chairwoman in her emphatic plea for more Union amongst Matrons. Old things are passing away and giving place to new, and not the least by any means of the signs of the times in the Nursing world is the manner in which Nurses are now combining together for mutual assistance, support and sympathy. Hospital Matrons, as Miss STEWART truly observed, have hitherto been very isolated in their lives and work, and it will be very beneficial to both if the new Society can draw them personally closer to their colleagues. By Union they will gain strength, not only for themselves in counsel and advice in difficulties—the frequent occurrence of which only those who have had the responsibilities of a Matron's work can realise—but it is beyond all doubt that the Matrons' Council will be able, with unfettered hands, to do a great work in developing the Nursing profession, while in the congresses which it proposes to hold, the new body will be able to carry out a most important public and professional work.

We have been requested to state that all information concerning the Matrons' Council can be obtained from Miss ISLA STEWART, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.

#### CHOLERA AGAIN.

From the accounts which have appeared in the lay press, this week, it may be regarded as certain that cholera, in a very virulent form, has re-appeared in a

number of Russian towns, and that its presence is more than suspected in several localities in Germany. It is, therefore, taking its ordinary course, and may be expected in due time to show itself on the Dutch coast, from which its transport to this country is so probable. Once more, therefore, it behoves our sanitary authorities to place their respective houses in order, and, as they have so successfully done each year, previously, once more to prevent the entrance of cholera into this country. It does not do to trust to our greatly improved hygienic conditions and improved sanitary measures to combat an outbreak of this disease; it is essential that means should be taken for prevention rather than cure. We cannot doubt, however, that Nurses will be found to be ready to do their part if, unhappily, our first line of defence is broken through, and it becomes incumbent on medical science to treat an epidemic of cholera in this country.

#### NURSING COMMITTEES.

Attention has frequently been called in this journal to the great and growing necessity which exists for the institution of a special committee in every Hospital to supervise the management of the nursing department. It has been pointed out that the ordinary committee, composed almost entirely of men, is unable, either by education or experience, to understand or control the many domestic matters which fall within the administration of the nursing department. We have pointed out that in those large Hospitals in which this principle of a special committee for a special department has been adopted, the most beneficial results have been obtained. Recent scandals connected with workhouse infirmaries have been rightly ascribed entirely to the absence of supervision over their management, and this has given rise to an important correspondence, in which the suggestions to which we allude, have been made again by various persons, together with the still further suggestion, that all bodies of management of Hospitals or Infirmaries should comprise some women members. We regret that we are seldom able to endorse the opinions expressed by the *British Medical Journal* upon Nursing matters. But it affords us much pleasure to recognise the ability with which the editorial department of that journal invariably perceives the drift of public opinion, and we therefore feel that, when our contemporary recommends emphatically any suggestion of amendment in the management of Hospitals or Infirmaries, that reform has probably obtained so much public support, that it is only a question of time when it will be effected. We have, therefore, very considerable pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the following paragraphs in a recent number of our contemporary:—"Judging by the results of the appointment of women to sit on the Boards of Management of the Metropolitan Asylums and Hospitals, we have no hesitation in expressing our most emphatic opinion in favour of an extension of the system. The influence exercised by the female members of the Board, whether on Committees, or within the walls of the Hospitals and Asylums, has been for the public benefit in the widest sense. The example they afford, shows that the existence of the female element on Poor-Law Boards of Management, must henceforth be regarded as indispensable, unless we are to rest satisfied with a less perfect system of administration than that which experience has shown to be attainable."

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