

given us the greatest encouragement and impetus to go on striving to obtain a higher standard of efficiency, and it is to them we look for assistance in the further developing of our scheme, viz.: State recognition, with its fixed curriculum.

It has been remarked to me that, in seeking to obtain a "standard of education" for women wishing to qualify as Nurses, we are losing sight of the *morale* or character of the Nurse, and seeking only professional skill.

One advantage of the classes is that the Matron, during the time that they are being held, comes into close contact with the pupils, and has an opportunity of forming an idea of the character and disposition of each (individually), and can make her selection accordingly.

In the event of legislation being obtained, there would be a Register published annually, stating a Nurse's qualifications; and in the event of her committing any flagrant act against the recognised code of morals, her name would be struck off the Register.

Others again suggest that a State regulation of a Nurse's curriculum would interfere with the power exercised over the "Nursing Staff" by Hospital authorities. I cannot see how this could be. All that the Crown would do would be to regulate the instruction given and the class certificates to be held before entering the wards of a Hospital, the time spent in Hospital also to be fixed by the State. During the time spent in the wards she would be fully under the control of the Hospital authorities. The State regulations would in no way interfere with the discipline of these institutions.

Those Nurses who wish to make "specialists" of themselves I would advise to take general training first, and supplement it by special training. The many complications arising in illnesses of all kinds are best met by one who, from her general knowledge, has some idea of what to expect, and she will have more resources than one suddenly confronted with the unexpected.

The facilities, "as a rule," for training for special purposes are limited.

In the event of a compulsory form of education being introduced, with its examination and diploma, it would be necessary to consider the position of those Nurses already in practice. Probably this might be met by placing them on the Register with some distinctive title indicating the degree of qualification. "Graduate in Nursing" appears a fitting title for one fully qualified to practise the art.

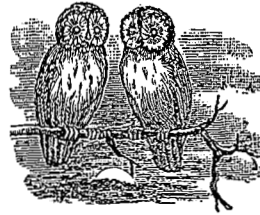
These remarks are crude, and only given with the idea of calling forth discussion. It is by this means we can gather up the different aspects of the question. No two people take exactly the same view of things.

I cannot conclude without offering my most sincere thanks to H.R.H. the Princess Christian,

for the earnest interest she is taking in Nursing and Nurses, and trust she may have the pleasure of seeing the accomplishment of her object, viz., the regulation of a Nurse's curriculum, and the fixing of her qualification by the State.

[The publication of the discussion on this paper is unavoidably postponed until next week.—ED.]

Matrons in Council.



THE first Meeting of the Matrons' Council took place at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Thursday, Nov. 1st, at 3 p.m., Miss Isla Stewart being in the Chair. The following Bye-Laws were proposed, seconded, and unanimously adopted:—

1. That the Name of the Society shall be "THE MATRONS' COUNCIL."—Proposed by Mrs. Okell, seconded by Miss Robertson.

2. That the Objects of the Society shall be:—

a. To enable Members to take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession.—Proposed by Miss Hogg, seconded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

b. To bring about a uniform system of Education, Examination, Certification, and State Registration for Nurses in British Hospitals.—Proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Mrs. Coster.

c. To form an Advisory Committee, to which Members can apply for counsel in cases of professional difficulty.—Proposed by Miss Rogers, seconded by Miss Sidney Browne.

d. To hold conferences to discuss subjects of professional, and also of general, interest.—Proposed by Miss E. Curtis, seconded by Miss Wingfield.

e. To encourage Members to understand the methods of procedure at Meetings.—Proposed by Miss Ridley, seconded by Miss Hogg.

3. The Society shall be formed of Members and Associates. Women who are or have been Matrons of Hospitals and Superintendents of Nursing Institutions, who are trained Nurses, shall be eligible for Membership. Night Superintendents, Ward Sisters or Charge Nurses of Hospitals, who are thoroughly trained, shall be eligible as Associates.—Proposed by Mrs. Gray, seconded by Miss Emily Jones.

4. Associates may attend Conferences at which they may read papers. They are not eligible for Official Positions or to sit in Council, or on the Executive Committee. The Hon. Secretary may be an Associate not engaged in active duty.—Proposed by Miss Hogg, seconded by Miss Robertson.

5. The Annual Subscription for Members shall be five shillings; and for Associates, two shillings and sixpence.—Proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss Hogg.

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