

performing his duties with that unselfish zeal and thoroughness characteristic of the man. A few months after his election as superintendent, he advised and succeeded in establishing a training-school for Nurses. He then devoted his energies to the formation of a thorough course of instruction for the pupils, adopting only such methods as would stimulate them to study, facilitate their progress, and perfectly equip them in every requirement. His ever active mind soon conceived the idea of a "degree" for trained Nurses; he immediately framed an article pertaining to such rights of conferment, placed it before the State Legislature, and urged its importance until it became a law. Thus New Jersey is placed by his efforts in advance of her sister States, and our nation foremost in the establishment of a graded function of utmost import to suffering humanity. For the benefit of those who may not be acquainted with this law, the following is a copy:—

"I. Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey that any training school organized or to be organized under the Act to which this is a supplement thereto, may confer the degree of Medical and Surgical Nurse upon any of its graduates, under such rules and regulations as such training schools may prescribe, provided that instruction be given in anatomy, physiology, hygiene, dietetics, and medical, surgical, obstetrical, and gynecological Nursing. And be it enacted, that this act shall take effect immediately."

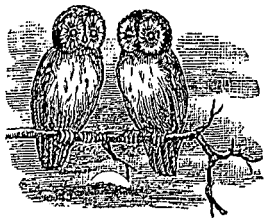
Dr. Witte is now in his thirty-fifth year, in the full vigour and prime of manhood. He has physical strength, intellectual power and moral influence.

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We read and quote with great pleasure the progressive work of Dr. WITTE; but Dr. KLINE, the writer of the article in question, must have been ignorant of the fact that the first legislation granting legal status to Nurses took place in 1891, when the Parliament of the Cape of Good Hope passed a Bill for the compulsory examination and registration of trained Nurses, thereby gaining the honourable distinction of priority of legislation in this important matter; and that he is thus in error in claiming this honour for the State Legislature of New Jersey State. And we would also remind our readers in this connection that it was owing, in a large measure, to the energy and strong sense of duty possessed by Sister HENRIETTA, the greatly respected Matron of the Kimberley Hospital in the Transvaal, that this legislation was effected at the Cape.

Matrons in Council.

A UNIFORM STANDARD OF EDUCATION.



a grievous error, as many of the very best and most suitable women will have no chance of entering a

DEAR MADAM,—It is with great regret that I see in your columns the proposition that women desiring to be Nurses, should pass through a training school preparatory to entering a hospital, which would of necessity mean expenditure of money. I cannot but feel it would be

hospital, not because they would be intellectually unfit to compete in the exam., but simply through want of funds to meet the necessary fees. I entirely differ from Miss Kenealy's statement, viz: "It is generally agreed in the family, that all money should be spent on the boys and nothing on the girls," but that "the standard should not be lowered to save a few poor women." Parents who have slender purses say, the clerical, military, and naval professions, etc., giving their sons a good start in life, means not only keen anxiety, but too frequently great self-denial; the daughters in these families may reasonably expect from their parents a good sound education, and naturally when they marry they look to their husbands for support: but with the son, it is far different; when he marries he has his wife and children to maintain; and again if the father dies and with him the whole or chief part of the income, as in many cases, to whom then does the mother look for assistance for herself and younger children? To the son or to the daughter? I contend that those women who have had to practise self-denial at home, are far more likely to make the ideal Nurse, than those from the butterfly rank, who have money and all it can provide, who only too frequently think of their own pleasure, simply take up Nursing as a passing fancy, or perhaps because they will meet students. Many of these no doubt would make good theoretical, but most indifferent practical Nurses.

LAURA LAKIN.

MADAM,—I cannot allow the letter appearing in your journal last week, signed "An Old-fashioned Matron," to pass unheeded, because such sweeping assertions are hardly just. As a Nurse trained and certificated during the last decade, I must protest against the wholesale condemnation of my compeers, by my senior colleague. I disagree with her that at any period of Nursing history all Nurses have been either good or bad; indeed, in all ages, the majority have been indifferent; and grand women, and in consequence good Nurses, have always been rare. What made the type of Nurse "An Old-fashioned Matron" so sincerely admires, was *strict discipline*, not lack of scientific education; and what will make the Nurse of the future (when we have passed through our present transition stage) still more excellent will be *self-discipline*, only to be acquired by personal responsibility. I own the Nurse of the last decade was more obedient, therefore easier to manage, but I doubt if her slavish obedience was either the result of unselfishness or devotion to duty. I know as a Probationer she made me as her subordinate feel her deputed power of tyranny, and she invariably ground out of my weary and spiritless body hard labour of the most repulsive nature, to accomplish work for which she was responsible. The system was a bad one, whatever the result, and naturally a great revulsion of feeling upon the part of the majority of the Matrons has been the result. Whatever may be the failings of the present-day Nurse—and I own they are legion—tyranny and ignorance are not the means by which she will improve. I also have read Mrs. Strong's paper with immense interest and pleasure, and am entirely in sympathy with her efforts to institute a course of preliminary training for Nurses before they attempt the responsible duties of attending the sick in the Wards. I go further, and I agree with Miss Mollett that three months' preliminary education will not in the future prove sufficient time in which to

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