

clude that for the future the wealthy inhabitants of Bradford will find the funds to nurse the sick poor, and that the surplus money earned by the Nurses will be in some way invested for their benefit. We are glad to hear from another source that for the future the Nurses belonging to this excellent institution are to qualify for registration by being trained for three years. We opine this wise step has been taken upon the initiative of Dr. Goyder.

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THE world can never cease to be grateful to the noble, self-sacrificing work that has been achieved by women belonging to the Sisterhoods of the Roman Catholic Church. Yet it would be folly to ignore the fact that they are being left behind in these days of high pressure, and high professional training. Their constant devotions and unceasing prayers occupy time, part of which, at any rate, and we say it with all reverence, would be more useful if spent upon their patients. The recent Athlone scandal was not the first of its kind. Could not his Holiness the Pope be approached to give sanction to the founding of a new Order of Sisters, one of the rules of which shall be the absolute necessity of systematic training in the holy work of Nursing. There are, we feel sure, hundreds of educated women of the Roman Catholic Church, who would hail such an opportunity of giving of their best, physically and intellectually, as well as spiritually, to follow out to its full meaning the instruction of the Master, "Heal the sick."

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The Roman Catholic Church "understands, what no other Church has understood, how to deal with enthusiasts," so says Macaulay. She uses enthusiasm. "Even for female agency there is a place in her system. To devout women she assigns spiritual functions, dignities, and magistracies." So far from alienating those animated by a spirit of reform, "at Rome, the Countess of Huntingdon would have a place in the calendar as St. Selina, and Mrs. Fry would be Foundress and first Superior of the Blessed Order of Sisters of the Gaols." Then it seems to us that some enthusiastic Roman Catholic lady could make use of the knowledge she has gained in a large Hospital to found "The Blessed Working Order of the skilled Sisters of the Hospitals." Instead of retiring to pray, their every action would be a prayer. Their prayers for the sick would be more availing if they took the first step of the answer into their own hands. God helps those who help themselves, so we are told.

"DISTRICT Nurse" writes:—

"Many Roman Catholic priests have petitioned their bishops for permission to put their clerical cassocks astride of the iron horse—the bicycle—and although at first the request was sternly denied on the ground that the dignity of the cloth would thereby suffer, the needs of the times and the necessities of bringing religion up-to-date, has resulted in a special convocation being called to decide the important question.

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If the 'dignity of the cloth' either of the Nurse or the priest is jeopardised by so small a matter, it must be something like the beauty which we in our childhood and in our copy books had so often impressed upon us was 'only skin deep.'

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It is only by the use of these bicycles that country clergymen with large parishes, whose stipends do not allow of their keeping a carriage, are enabled to do their duty and visit their outlying parishioners with any degree of regularity. And there is not the slightest reason why the District Nurse should not have her work made possible by the same means. There would be no criticism on the part of the working classes, who appreciate the value of the services of a trained Nurse much too keenly to stop to cavil at the means by which these services reach them."

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WE shall next week publish the paper entitled "Nurses' Directories," read before the Convention of American Superintendents, by Miss L. L. Dock, Superintendent of the Illinois Training School for Nurses—in connection with the Cook County Hospital in Chicago. It is a suggestive paper, and we are in entire sympathy with Miss Dock in her wish to see Private Nursing efficiently organised in the States; for it appears that utilising the labour of half-trained pupils prevails in some of the American Hospitals, as well as at home.

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A FRIEND in Chicago writes:—

"Miss L. L. Dock has resigned her position as Superintendent of the Illinois Training School for Nurses. Her departure will be an almost irreparable loss, as she has proved herself an admirable organiser, and she is a woman full of energy for progress and reform in Nursing matters; indeed, she is known to strongly deprecate the system still in force in the Illinois Training School, of permitting the pupils to nurse in private houses before they have graduated. This is certainly an indefensible system, and it is greatly to be deplored that the Committee do not at once reorganise the Institution upon more modern lines; many of our leading Hospitals in the States are extending the period of training from two to three years and adopting a most complete curriculum. We have not yet risen to the preliminary course of theoretical education advocated by Mrs. Strong of Glasgow, but no doubt that is coming along; but we certainly excel the British Schools in our Diet Kitchens, where Pupil Nurses become expert cooks in food for the sick."

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