

nearly every modern improvement has been made—hard wood highly polished floors (we remember them in the days when they were oiled, with the result that lobbies, passages and stairs were always greasy and foot marked), finely painted and varnished walls and ceilings, the best ventilating and heating arrangements, and comfortable spring matted beds throughout. The Nurses were uniformly neat and speckless; the ward-maids also presenting an admirably tidy appearance, quite in keeping with the high standard maintained in every department. The Matron, Miss Gertrude Knight, M.R.B.N.A., is to be greatly congratulated upon the success which has resulted from her persevering attention to duty; and now that the three years' term of training has been inaugurated, we have no doubt that as a Nursing School the General Hospital, Nottingham, will henceforth stand in the first rank.

Just over the road is situated the Children's Hospital. How many interesting memories recurred to us as we passed under the quaint gateway; it seemed impossible that it was nearly eighteen years since we first entered its doors. This little Hospital is singularly fortunate in having, under the scientific care of Dr. Lewis Marshall, been always well managed. The wards are charming, with blue tiled walls, polished floors, and everything sweet and dainty; the cot quilts are particularly bright and useful, being made of linen in inch wide alternate stripes of crimson and white. The convalescent children have a play-room, in which toys, pictures, and rocking-horse can be enjoyed without disturbing those really ill, and a most convenient little theatre has been constructed, and a roomy out-patient department has been added of late years. Here the nursing of sick children is taught on the most practical and tender lines, a three months' preliminary course having lately been added to the two years' term upon the recommendation of the Lady Superintendent, Miss Lilian Parmiter, M.R.B.N.A. These new Probationers learn cooking, how to manage convalescent children, how to amuse and interest them; they attend the out-patient department under skilled superintendence, learn the management of the operating theatre, and how to clean instruments before entering the wards. This Hospital contains thirty beds, and had the regulation proposed at the late Council Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association—that no Nurse should be registered who had not spent three years in a Hospital containing forty beds—been thoughtlessly accepted, this most efficient school for training in the speciality of nursing sick children would have been entirely disfranchised. The subject of

co-operative training between the General and Special Hospitals must receive consideration before any drastic alterations calculated to injure the special Hospitals should be inaugurated by the Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE subject of Rural Nursing was discussed at the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers at Nottingham, being introduced by Mrs. Edward Clements, who spoke of the work done by the Lincolnshire Nursing Association. She emphasised the fact that a recognised standard of Nursing must be maintained, and said that the Nurse, besides being efficient, must not be too costly. It seems that the Association she represented needs only a six months' standard, but even this is higher than that exacted by some other Nursing Associations, who require only three months' training to develop the raw material into the "Trained District" Nurse. We are making allowance for the fact that these Associations are only making a beginning, that their *aim* is admirable, and their desire to help the poor undeniable. But we must always deprecate the manufacture of the "inferior article," and we are convinced that in a short time these various Societies will be as anxious as we are to see the three years' training made the one uniform standard for all Nurses.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that the keynote of Rural Nursing Associations was unfortunately summed up in the words used by Mrs. Clements, "we must be content with the next best thing." This she could not allow; women must never be content with the "next best thing," but aim at the highest standard in all work undertaken by them. Had Miss Louisa Twining been content with a low standard of Nursing in our Poor Law Infirmarys, she would not have lived to see the best of them organised upon most efficient lines. She hoped the Rural Nursing Associations would persevere in the good work undertaken, gradually attaining a higher and higher standard of efficiency, until all district Nurses were certificated after three years' training. If the parochial societies could not find the money, the State must step in and assist.

It is believed that the Nursing Section of the National Council of Women, on which it is hoped delegates from Rural Nursing and Trained Nurses' Associations will meet, will be of the utmost value to the various Nursing Societies in furnishing them with expert and professional advice upon the training and standard for their Nurses.

"It certainly is not fair that Nurses 'made in France and Germany,' should come over here

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