

more bricks and mortar outside, or so many more bedsteads and fireplaces inside, than other Institutions possess, but because they have in the past, or perchance have, at present, on their medical staffs, very eminent members of the medical profession, whose names are household words with the public, or whose scientific work has given them world-wide reputation, which is, in both instances, reflected on the Institutions within whose walls their observations or discoveries have been made. The presence of such gentlemen on the staff of the Institution was originally, invariably, due to the fact that they were attracted to its service in consequence of its association with a Medical School, and of the opportunity thereby afforded to them for tutorial facilities, for clinical experience, and for subsequent professional success. Other, and even larger, Hospitals in the Metropolis or the provinces, to which no Medical School is attached, do not command the same class of workers, and they do not therefore gain the same public and professional prestige.

The advantages of affiliating Medical Schools to Workhouse Infirmaries are therefore obvious, so far as the grant of such enhanced reputation to Institutions which do not at present possess it, is concerned. The benefits to the patients of being under the care of gentlemen of the highest eminence in their profession is equally evident; not the least reason being that association with a Medical School is well known to raise the standard of efficiency in every department, in consequence both of the active rivalry which is engendered in all ranks, and of the fact that everyone works in the fierce light of expert criticism.

All the advantages which are at present obtained by the sick poor in a Metropolitan Hospital may fairly be claimed by the sick poor in the even more luxuriously equipped modern Workhouse Infirmary, and there would be no great difficulty experienced in carrying out this suggestion, once the Local Government Board had granted its consent to the innovation. It would be so obviously to the advantage of the Infirmary inmates, and even of the ratepayers, that such a reform should be instituted, that it is difficult to believe that the Government would raise any insuperable difficulty. Each Poor Law Infirmary would, in brief, be affiliated to its nearest Medical School, the students from which would be permitted to work in the wards, as they do now in those of its

General Hospital; keeping clinical records, gaining invaluable experience, and at the same time yielding to the patients that minute care and attention which makes residence in so many General Hospitals specially valued by the sick poor. The Infirmary staff of Physicians, Surgeons, and Specialists could be selected from the large number of Consultants who in their earlier days are not overburdened with professional work; and the magnificently equipped Infirmaries would undoubtedly afford them not only a field of valuable research, but also most excellent training in tutorial work amongst the attending students. There would be a considerable saving in the cost of the medical department, because the Resident Officers, instead of being, as now, permanent and highly paid officials, would be House Physicians and House Surgeons, appointed, without salary, for short terms of service. The reason, however, why we chiefly advocate the institution of this reform is because of the direct influence which it would exert upon the efficiency of the Nursing departments of the Poor Law Infirmaries. It is a well-known fact that a large number of the best class of Nurses at present do not undertake Infirmary work, partly because of its extreme monotony, but chiefly because it is usually so wanting in the educational advantages which can be obtained in a Hospital where scientific training takes a prominent place.

### The 'Registered Nurses' Society.

*(The first Co-operation of Chartered Nurses.)*



A MEETING of the Executive Committee of the Society was held last Tuesday, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, the Hon. Superintendent presenting a very satisfactory Report of the month's work. Every Nurse had been kept fully engaged, and many calls could not be supplied. It was therefore decided that the staff of Nurses should be increased.

The Committee arranged to issue invitations to a *Conversazione* for Saturday, June 6th, to be held at St. Martin's Town Hall, to the members, their friends, and all those interested in the work of the Registered Nurses' Society.

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