

pupil Nurses. This is a matter of great moment to everyone concerned, and we congratulate our American cousins upon the decision at which they have arrived. As we pointed out, in evidence given before a Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1890, it is a question of the highest importance both to Hospitals and to the Nursing profession. To the former, because it gives them the services of a superior class of workers, that is to say, of women who are able to afford to work without payment for three years; and who, therefore, as a rule, not only bring into the calling higher educational gifts, but also a greater measure of refinement, and consequently a greater adaptability to the special peculiarities of Nursing work. These are obvious advantages to Hospitals and their patients, as well as to the whole Nursing profession. To Nurses, the system is one of further benefit, because the adoption of the principle that Probationers must pay, either in time or money, for the advantages they gain in being taught a skilled profession and in being boarded and lodged during their pupilage, is followed by most important consequences. Such Probationers, for example, gain privileges which they could not expect were they the paid servants of the Hospital. And indirectly other Nurses are benefited by the *personnel* of their calling being improved, and by the number entering the profession being also, to a certain extent, restricted, thus diminishing the excessive competition which the overcrowding of a profession inevitably brings about. It is a great step in advance, then, which this leading American Hospital has taken, and it is one of the highest significance because it emphasises the opinion which is permeating all classes in the United States as to the scientific aspect of Nursing work.

It will undoubtedly still further encourage Hospital authorities in this country to extend the same system into their Institutions. It has been found to be successful wherever it has been tried; it has by no means diminished the number of applicants for work, but it has invariably resulted in improving both the efficiency and the general tone of the Nursing School.

But the Johns Hopkins Hospital has adopted two other principles in its scheme of reorganisation, which are comparatively novel. It proposes that each Nurse should work for only eight hours a day, an arrangement which, after very careful consideration, appeared to

us to be, perhaps, not entirely beneficial to the patients; and we shall, therefore, observe with much curiosity and interest the manner in which the new scheme works. The other scheme is the establishment of scholarships. Twelve of these are to be awarded each year in order to give pecuniary assistance to candidates who seem to be deserving of training, but who might not be able, unaided, to obtain it. Four scholarships of the value of 100 dollars each (£20) are awarded in the first, and four more in the second, year of training, while, in the third year, four scholarships are given of the value of £24 each. They are to be awarded for the most creditable records of work and conduct, and we understand are only to be held by those who require such pecuniary assistance.

Finally, the Johns Hopkins Hospital has adopted the important principle which we have for so long advocated, that all applicants should pass an examination in preliminary educational subjects before being admitted to the School. In future, such Probationers are therefore to be examined in reading, writing, arithmetic, and dictation as a minimum educational test, but at the same time they are reminded that "in all cases preference will be given to women of superior education and cultivation." We hope that, before very long, the preliminary examination required at St. Bartholomew's and a few other British Hospitals, will be enforced at all the leading Training Schools in this country; and its institution in the Hospitals of the United States will not only prove to be of great advantage to themselves, but will also undoubtedly stimulate Hospital authorities in other parts of the world, to adopt the same valuable system.

## Lectures on Elementary Physiology in relation to Medical Nursing.

BY BEDFORD FENWICK, M.D.

*Physician to The Hospital for Women, Soho Square.*

### LECTURE IV.—THE EXCRETORY ORGANS.

(Continued from page 471.)

**A** DISEASE of the kidney which very commonly comes under the care of Nurses, is that due to the formation of a Stone. When the phosphates or urates are excreted in unusual quantities

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)