

dispense with the requirement, be a person qualified for the appointment by having undergone, for three years at least, a course of instruction in medical and surgical wards of any Hospital or Infirmary, being a Training School for Nurses and maintaining a Resident Physician or House Surgeon."

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of this Regulation. It is the first recognition which has been made by the Government in this country of the necessity for a three years' training for Nurses; and must be regarded, therefore, as the beginning of the establishment of a definite curriculum of education for Nurses. It may be remembered that, in 1892, the Select Committee of the House of Lords, which inquired into the management of the Metropolitan Hospitals, expressed the decided opinion that no Nurse could be considered trained unless she had had at least three years' Hospital education and experience. That must always be regarded as the great stepping-stone to the general adoption of the three years' principle, because it undoubtedly brought about this greatly needed uniformity, in the basis of Nursing education, in a large number of London and provincial Hospitals. But, after all, this was only an expression of opinion, and carried weight merely from its distinguished authorship.

The present Order is, it is hardly necessary to explain, infinitely more significant. It practically ensures the general adoption of the three years' system in every large training school in the Kingdom, for the simple reason that any hospital which hereafter trains its Nurses for less than three years renders them thereby ineligible for a Superintendentship in any Poor-law Infirmary. The effects, therefore, of this Order must be most far-reaching upon the advance of Nursing education in the future. And it is naturally most encouraging to those who, like ourselves, have, for ten years past, been fighting the battle of the three years' standard—certainly with ever increasing success, but yet in the face of the most determined opposition. As we have often said, the first essential in any definite curriculum for Nurses, must be the settlement of a definite period of education; and this, to all intents and purposes, has, in our opinion, now been decided on the highest Governmental authority—a decision for which the gratitude of the whole Nursing profession is due to the Local Government Board.

We are compelled, however, to express our opinion that the words, in the Regulation just quoted, referring to a Resident Physician or House-Surgeon were unnecessary. Every recognized Training School maintains such an officer; in fact, no Hospital could be a Training School unless it had a sufficient number of beds to make the services of a Resident Medical Officer absolutely essential.

Regulations IV. and V. do not appear to call for special notice at the present moment, although we regard it as certain that the future development of trained Nursing in Workhouses will bring about considerable modifications in these.

Annotations.

WOMEN AND THE VOTE.

WE are glad to observe that the Sisters of the community of All Saints, Margaret Street, have established their right to keep their names upon the rate book. A discussion upon the subject recently took place at Marylebone. The Liberals successfully objected to these ladies being upon the occupiers' list, but Mr. Underhill contested the statement, which had been made that, as a result of this objection, three hundred people would be struck off the list as School Board electors. The rate collector had signified his intention of removing the names of these ladies from the rate book, now that the objection to their being on the occupiers' list had been successfully sustained. The Revising Barrister said there was absolutely no reason why these ladies should be removed from the rate book, and ordered that their names should stand there. This will entitle the Sisters to vote at School Board elections, which is all that they really desire. It is somewhat of a novelty to find a religious community claiming its legal rights, and we presume that in the present case their desire to safeguard religious education in schools has led the All Saints' Sisters to adopt this unusual course; but, whatever may be the reason, we rejoice to see any women interesting themselves in their public duties, and claiming, and obtaining, public recognition of their rights.

IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

WE are glad to observe in the recent issue of *Asylum News* that it is still aiming at, and advocating, a higher standard of education

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)