

Notes from the States.

THE three years' course of training for nurses is extending in a satisfactory way, and what is even more gratifying, the eight-hour system is also being developed in various hospitals in connection with the lengthened period of service. Notable examples of the combined three years with eight hours' work are the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, under the able direction of Miss Murray; the Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, R.I., under Miss Stowe; and the new hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, belonging to the University there, which owes its establishment on this advanced line very largely to the influence of Mrs. Hunter Robb, formerly Miss Hampton, of the Johns Hopkins, who, as the wife of the Professor of Gynecology in the University, and a member of the Board of Managers of the Training School, has had much to do with determining the system upon which it is to be conducted.

AMONG the various business enterprises into which nurses are being diverted from routine work is the study and pursuit of pharmacy. One graduate nurse in New York State, who is still a young woman, conducts successfully a pharmacy in a country town, and is making a good income. She buys and dispenses drugs, makes up prescriptions, and manages the whole work with the aid of one clerk. She finds her occupation interesting, pleasant, and profitable.

At the Nurses' Settlement in New York a number of classes of a practical character are conducted every winter by the members of the household, the pupils being from the families of the crowded tenement house quarter. Home nursing lessons are always prominent in these classes. This winter there have been two nursing classes, one for English speaking and one for German speaking women. They are attended by young women and mothers. Demonstrations are given, the teaching being in every possible instance by object lessons, with simple, definite explanations. Another class of mothers is having a cooking course, the aim being to demonstrate dishes better, more appetising and wholesome than those they are in the habit of making, yet equally cheap and capable of being cooked with their own little stoves and scanty appliances. These lessons always end with a cozy tea, when the results of the afternoon's work are eaten and discussed. Another class of young girls is having a course of physical culture, and still another a course of kitchen gardening and house work. For these classes the fee of five cents a lesson is charged.

"STARS AND STRIPES."

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



THE Queen has been pleased to confer the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Miss Emma Halford in recognition of her services in tending the sick and wounded in the Crimean War.

ON Wednesday, Princess Christian inaugurated at Nice the new Victoria ward of the foreign hospital, erected in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee.

MRS. COSTER, the late Matron of St. George's Hospital, has consented to be nominated for the vacant post of Nurse Hon. Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association, the post having been practically vacant for nearly twelve months.

DURING Mrs. Coster's long and arduous nursing career, she has won much appreciation and affection by her courtesy of manner and kindness of heart, but we fear that her appointment will have but little influence on the conduct of the business of the Association by her autocratic medical colleagues. Mrs. Coster only joined the Association after the grant of the Royal Charter in 1893, so she had not the honour of participating in its arduous and pioneer work. She has also given her support to the suggested new code of Bye-Laws drawn up by the present Hon. Officers, depriving the founders of the Association of the *ex-officio* seats upon the Executive Committee which they have held for ten years, and the Nurse Members generally of many privileges which they enjoy under the present Bye-Laws. This shows a lack of appreciation upon the part of Mrs. Coster—both of professional rights, and of the sanctity of an honourable agreement—which is to be deeply regretted.

WE feel sure, from our personal knowledge of Mrs. Coster, that she would have been the last to support many of the discreditable proceedings which have taken place. But we cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that to condone them shows a lack of the qualities which are absolutely necessary in a Nurse Hon. Secretary who is to exercise any influence for good in the councils of the Association, or indeed in the necessary-reform

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