

medical education is incomplete which concerns itself only with anatomy, physiology, and advanced medical and surgical treatment of patients, and does not include instruction in the scientific principles upon which nursing is based, as well as in the practical carrying out of its principles. The day will, no doubt, come when this fact is universally recognised, and a knowledge of the principles and practice of nursing is required of all candidates for medical diplomas. As usual, the enlightened West has been the first to recognize this necessity, but we do not doubt that in time European Universities will provide the same advantages to students as those which are now attainable in the University of Texas, and of the John Hopkins University. One great advantage of residence in a comparatively new country is, without doubt, that the public mind is more in sympathy with progress; the customs of ages have not taken such deep root, or made great ruts in which it is considered necessary to move; neither do new countries suffer in the same way as old ones from the vice of self-complacency which is a most effective barrier to all progress. And especially is this the case with the United States. Not content with its present attainments, it is ever aspiring to something better, and the result is that over and over again progressive movements, which we have vainly longed for in this country, are initiated in the States, and their benefits in time make themselves felt in our own land. What wonder then that those in sympathy with progress, who are at times inclined to be discouraged and lose heart at the obstruction which prevails on this side the Atlantic, turn their eyes westward, and in the dawn, on the horizon, discern unmistakeable evidence of the approaching sunrise which shall flood the nursing world with light.

ENTERIC FEVER IN GENERAL WARDS.

THE question has lately been brought prominently forward as to whether enteric fever should be nursed in the general wards of hospitals, or, indeed, be admitted to general hospitals at all. Those who advocate its exclusion hold that, as a notifiable infectious disease, it should be refused by the General Hospitals and admitted into those specially set apart for the reception of infectious diseases. As a matter of fact, there is no doubt that enteric fever is not infectious in the same way as scarlet fever, small-pox, and kindred

diseases which may be contracted from merely entering a ward where such patients are nursed, and that notification is required principally in order that the insanitary conditions, or the contamination of the milk and water supply, which are the invariable cause of enteric fever, may be made public and investigated.

The way in which enteric fever is conveyed from one person suffering from the disease to another is through the infection contained in the excreta, more especially in the stools. Those who are most exposed to it, therefore, are the nurses who attend the patients, and the utmost cleanliness and care as to disinfection are necessary. If these precautions are conscientiously carried out it has been proved by experience that no ill consequences are likely to ensue, even if the disease is nursed in a general ward. We are of opinion, however, that it is advisable, wherever possible, to set aside special wards in general hospitals, as is the case at the Nottingham General Hospital, for the treatment of this disease. Cases of enteric fever which are almost invariably most acute, require the most careful nursing, and nursing no doubt reaches its perfection when developed into a speciality; and further, the constant details of disinfection of all vessels used by an enteric patient are so irksome in a general ward, that nurses sometimes become careless in this respect, and therefore, for the better organization of the nursing, we think that the plan of placing enteric patients in special wards is to be recommended. If they are entirely excluded from our general hospitals there is no doubt that much valuable experience will be lost by nurses, and that they will be compelled to supplement their general training by subsequent work in a fever hospital.

WOMEN ON INFIRMARY BOARDS.

Active measures are being taken, by the Glasgow and West of Scotland Association for the return of Women upon Local Boards, to support the candidature of two ladies, Mrs. James W. Napier, and Mrs. Maver as members of the Board of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary at the approaching election. At a meeting summoned to consider the matter a speaker argued that as women had proved so efficient on School Boards and Parish Councils it was logical to assume that their admission to Infirmary Boards would benefit these institutions.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)