

A minimum qualification is laid down, infectious training is insisted upon as part of the curriculum of eligible nurses, and nurses must further prove that their knowledge has successfully been tested by examination. We think the Irish Local Government Board is to be congratulated on the line it has adopted. It has, perhaps, scarcely realized the difficulties which will be experienced by Boards of Guardians in obtaining nurses who fulfil these conditions, but, having adopted this standard, it cannot with any dignity recede from the position it has taken up, which is one, moreover, which must commend itself to all who know anything of nursing. The outcome of these regulations will be, we believe, and hope (1) to materially raise the standard of nursing in Ireland (2) to establish a minimum curriculum of nursing, and (3) to make plain to the Irish Local Government Board the necessity for the organization of nursing in those institutions under its control, in order that facilities may be afforded to nurses to obtain the required training.

We are sorry to observe that there has been some opposition on the part of Guardians, and of the Press, to these wise and necessary regulations, but, it is noteworthy even in this country also, where we, and others, have been striving for the last ten years for the establishment of a minimum curriculum of nursing education, that there has been an extraordinary amount of opposition, and that, moreover, this opposition has come to a great extent from the training schools themselves, which have over and over again declared themselves against a progressive policy in the matter of organization.

A "Hospital Sister," writing to the *Freeman's Journal*, points out that the regulations of the Irish Local Government Board disqualify many nurses, inasmuch as, though their contract with a hospital may be for three years, the whole of this period is by no means spent by the probationer in the wards of the institution, but the greater part of her training is spent acting as district or private nurse. "Were they," she says, "trained at the fountain head, 'St. Thomas's, London,' under the Nightingale system, they would only have one year's training at 'St. Thomas's Hospital,' and for the three succeeding years are required to enter into service as hospital or infirmary nurses. . . I have known nurses in their second year of training be given the post of Sister at St.

Thomas's Hospital." We can fully endorse these remarks; indeed, we know of ladies who have been made Ward Sisters in this institution at the end of three to eight months. We do not believe this would be possible under the rule of the present Matron, but, at the same time, the term of training, as required by this hospital, is still ostensibly one year.

That the London Training Schools will be compelled to take some action with regard to defining a minimum standard of nurse training, we fully believe. Either they will themselves take the initiative, or they will be compelled to take action by the force of public opinion, which is daily becoming stronger.

The best means of arriving at a definite conclusion would be, no doubt, that an open Conference should be held on liberal lines, by Governors of Hospitals, and the Matrons of these institutions, to discuss the whole question. A unique opportunity for such a Conference will occur during the International Congress of Women, to be held in London in June. A paper on "The Professional Training and Status of Nurses" has been sanctioned by the Committee of Arrangements, and will be read on Friday, June 30th, the day set apart in the Professional Section for a Nursing Conference. Under this heading the following points may well be discussed: (a) Standard of General Education and Age of Probationers; (b) Preliminary Professional Training; (c) Science of Ethics and Etiquette (d); Educational Curriculum in Hospital; (e) Standard and Form of Examination; (f) Certification; (g) Registration. These are the principal points requiring discussion, and we hope, for the credit of the British nation, that British Matrons will make a point of attending this Conference to discuss with their colleagues of other nations the many nursing problems which require solution.

The "Hospital Sister" enquires, "could we not have a Commission to enquire into the chaotic condition of the training in Ireland at present?" We most heartily echo the question. Such a Commission would be of the utmost benefit. There is little doubt that ultimately not only the conditions of training in Ireland, but in Great Britain also, must form the subject of an enquiry. Public opinion is tending this way, and there can be no question that such an enquiry is urgently needed in the interests of the sick, the public, and the Nursing Profession.

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