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Editorial.

A CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

WE have learnt that America is ahead of us in many ways in nursing matters, but if it is before us in good, it must also take precedence in evil methods; for we doubt if a system of nurse training which is to be found in New York State could ever have been seriously suggested in this country, where we are, at least, imbued with the belief that practical clinical experience is an essential basis of nursing education.

It will be remembered that recently a meeting of trained nurses was held at Albany for the purpose of taking action with regard to State Registration, and a New York State Nurses' Association was formed for the promotion of this object. This evidently caused disturbance in the ranks of the unqualified, and in less than a month a Correspondence School for Nurses began using this fact as an inducement to women to enter the school, and offered a diploma at the end of thirteen months of study for one hour daily, the necessary instruction being given by correspondence.

Some of the reasons advanced in urging candidates to join these classes are:—

"Because the trained nurse is now compelled to register, and very soon it will be a law that all nurses must be graduates of some first-class training school, or undergo an examination before they can nurse serious cases, and get the fees of the trained nurse. If I matriculate, or register as a student in the American Correspondence School of Nursing, I will not be affected by any law which may be made hereafter, compelling women to be examined before entering into practice."

"I do not consume much time, nor need I leave my home; nor am I prevented from nursing, or from being in the store or factory. In short, I can study at night, and in thirteen months I can have a diploma which will entitle me to high wages if I want to nurse."

"If I cannot read and write I will be taught." These are a few of the attractive inducements held out by the Correspondence School. Surely no better proof could be afforded of the need for legislation, which will differentiate nurses who have conscientiously qualified themselves for their responsible work by an arduous training, from those who lightly undertake nursing duties without ever having spent a day in a hospital.

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