

## The Nursing Directory.\*

[Issued under the authority of the Matrons' Council.]

"The Nursing Directory" (price 5s.), issued under the authority of the Matrons' Council, is a most convenient and useful book of reference.

Its special features are that it is published under professional control, it maintains the three years' standard of training, having for years past made a certificate of training in a General Hospital or Infirmary, to which a training school is attached, a necessary qualification in those who seek admission to its pages; it moreover contains much valuable information which is to be found in no other Directory, such as the regulations of the Navy, Army, and Indian Army Nursing Services, and the Colonial Nursing Association, of the Preliminary Training Schools in the United Kingdom, and of all the principal Nurse Training Schools.

We also find in it the Constitutions of the International Council of Nurses, the National League of Certificated Nurses, the Objects of the Matrons' Council and of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, significant evidence of the trend of nursing opinion in the direction of organization. Thus we see order coming out of chaos in the organization of graduate Nurses into Leagues, of School Leagues into a National League, and the ultimate entry of National Leagues through National Councils into the International Council of Nurses. Thus, with the organization now to hand, every Graduate Nurse may, if she chooses, have direct representation by delegation on the supreme body. Of this International Council of Nurses the Preamble runs: "We Nurses of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of our Profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, do hereby band ourselves in a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick, and to secure the honour and interests of the Nursing Profession."

Additions this year are the lists of the Sisters in the Navy, Army, and Indian Army Nursing Services, while that of the recipients of the Royal Red Cross since its institution in 1883 is brought up to date.

The difficulty of accurately compiling a voluntary Directory is well known to be extreme; more especially is this the case in a Nursing Directory, for Nurses move about considerably, and an added complication is, that they may be lost sight of owing to their having married, and consequently changed their names. The Directory under discussion appears to us to have been compiled with great care and accuracy, proving incidentally the value of professional control in a publication of this nature.

We notice that in the present issue a departure has been made in the custom of former years of printing separate lists of nurses in London and the provinces. These are now amalgamated under the heading of England and Wales, an alteration which we consider a great improvement, as it considerably simplifies the search for any given name.

A number of changes have taken place in the matronships of hospitals since the last issue of the "Directory." Amongst the larger hospitals Miss S. A. Swift has been appointed Matron of Guy's; Miss A. G.

Cresswell, of the General Infirmary, Chester; Miss G. Möller, of the General Hospital, Cheltenham; Miss Emily Antram, of the Infirmary, Ryde; Miss Gwyn, of the Royal Hants County Hospital; Miss E. M. Jones, of the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool; Miss Grace Gaffin, of the Preston Royal Infirmary; Miss Katherine Bulteel, of the Taunton Hospital; Miss L. Pearse, of the North Staffordshire Infirmary and Eye Hospital; Miss I. M. Eastmond, of the Wolverhampton General Hospital; Miss E. M. Shoter, of the Royal Infirmary, Sheffield; and Miss Agnes Pumphrey, of the County Hospital, York.

In Scotland Miss F. Strange has been appointed Matron of Chalmer's Hospital, Edinburgh. Miss Kathleen Burleigh, of the Royal Hospital for Children in the same city, and Miss E. C. Shannon, of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

The regulations of the various nurse training schools afford interesting reading.

It is good to note year by year with each successive issue of the Directory the steady advance towards uniformity of education, a higher professional standard, and better organization. Sooner or later these schools will no doubt realize the necessity for a further consolidation of forces and recognizing that each forms an educational centre, they will confer with one another with the object of maintaining a minimum standard of education, and a uniformity of method in the manner of imparting instruction, the logical sequence upon such action being examination and certification by a central authority.

It is very remarkable how, of recent years, the provincial hospitals have adopted the three years' standard of training, increased their nursing staffs, and made provision for their accommodation on lines in accordance with the dignity to which the profession of nursing has now attained, and the considerations due to the honest worker.

To the hospitals which require a four years term of service of their nurses must now be added St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and the London Homœopathic Hospital, while the Bradford Royal Infirmary has raised its period of training from one to three years, and the Taunton and Somerset Hospital has, we regret to note, taken a retrograde step, and now certifies its nurses at the end of two instead of three years.

Quite the most important new announcement in regard to the Nurse Training Schools is that the Committee of the Nightingale Fund in connection with St. Thomas's Hospital have—instead of the letters of commendation and gratuities heretofore given—decided to give a certificate of training at the end of a period of at least three years. The London Hospital, therefore, is the only one of the twelve Metropolitan Hospitals to which medical schools are attached which still clings to the standard of nurse training now obsolete of certification at the end of two years, although the Westminster Hospital still apparently gives its Nurses a certificate at the end of four years' service, if the engagement is then severed—an unsatisfactory regulation from the point of view of a nurse who has worked for, and earned, her certificate.

The Nursing Directory is a valuable book of reference alike to the medical and nursing professions and to the public at large. Certainly a copy of it should be in the Nurses' Library in all hospitals and infirmaries, while it is invaluable to those who are thinking of taking up nursing as a profession. It should have the wide circulation it assuredly deserves.

\* THE NURSING RECORD, 11, Adam Street, Strand.

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