

Annotations.

INSTRUCTION IN NURSING UNDER THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

We observe with much pleasure that the London School Board is adding to its staff of trained nurses to lecture on Home Nursing in its Evening Continuation Schools. Practical instruction in this subject cannot fail to be of use if taught efficiently, but as we have before pointed out, to be effective, instruction in nursing must be given by a trained nurse. At present the teaching staff consists of 120 doctors, 13 trained nurses, and 245 of the Board's teachers.

A year ago the Board, which had hitherto arranged its classes upon St. John's Ambulance lines, and sent up its students for examination by the St. John's Ambulance Association, decided to draw up its own syllabus, to conduct its own examinations and to give certificates. Dr. Robert J. Collie was appointed to reorganize and superintend the classes, and during the past year instruction has been given to 16,000 pupils. Dr. Collie appears to have appreciated the importance of the subjects chosen to be taught, both in first aid to the injured and in home nursing, and invited members of the medical staff of the School Board to confer with him. We could wish he had gone still further, and invited some trained nurses to attend the Conference also, as the members of it included in their deliberations the teaching of Home Nursing.

In our opinion, nursing, no matter into what branches it may be divided, can only be taught by trained nurses. The system of School Board teachers attempting to give such instruction should be discontinued.

THE ETHICS OF QUACKERY.

The *British Medical Journal* makes some strong comments in its last issue on the fact that the Duchess of Sutherland had invited "Professor" Atkinson, a bone-setter, to "look at" some of the children of the Potteries and Newcastle Cripples' Guild. This procedure, our contemporary says, is "an insult to the medical profession, the members of which, in Burslem, Hanley, Stoke, and other centres, had agreed to give their services gratuitously, to help the work started by the Duchess." But why these tears? Surely duchesses may rise superior to all professional considerations, if this course commends itself to them. Have

they not over and over again had the cordial co-operation and assistance of medical men when they think good to employ nursing quacks? In rural district nursing associations engineered by duchesses and other philanthropic society ladies, women with the most rudimentary education, and the veriest smattering of nursing knowledge, are almost invariably engaged to nurse the sick poor. If a duchess decries the training—or want of training—sufficient, what is a mere medical man, that he should object? Has he ever been known to object, and to plead for the employment of a fully trained and certificated nurse? Not at all. He makes an obsequious obeisance to the local demi-god, and finds no difficulty in working with quack nurses. Who can be surprised therefore if a duchess does not draw a fine line of demarcation between quack nurses, who are supported by medical men, and quack doctors who are not. The Duchess of Sutherland's "Professor" has, says the local press, "an intuitive and inbred aptitude for dealing with cripples." He has also "been examined on and has passed in anatomy, physiology, and those branches of science which bear upon his immediate profession under some of the most eminent specialists of the century, and his diplomas are framed and hung in his consulting room." What more can be required to convince the laity of his proficiency, and if a duchess wishes to take his opinion, who shall say her nay? But as the medical profession has now felt the pinch of the shoe in its own case we hope it will appreciate in the future the objection of qualified nurses to be made the sport of the latest society whim, and to the nursing of the rural poor being placed in the hands of women with no training worthy of the name, under the auspices of a society womap.

Is it too much to hope that for the future medical practitioners will invite philanthropic ladies to choose between the two when a question arises as to their working in co-operation with untrained nurses, as well as with bone-setters, and that they will have the courage to point out that the employment of unqualified nurses is as much an "insult" as that of unqualified medical men? Why should not the General Medical Council draw up a code of ethics defining the relations of medical men with, and their duties towards, the profession of nursing?

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