

the education and examination of nurses. It is evident that some standard of efficiency must be adopted, and not for Poor Law nurses alone, but for all nurses throughout the United Kingdom. The natural outcome of uniformity of education and examination would be the award of a registrable diploma of nursing, which would be the distinguishing mark of a fully qualified nurse.

Annotations.

A ROYAL COMMISSION ON TUBERCULOSIS.

A Royal Commission has just been appointed to inquire and report with reference to the statements made by Dr. Koch at the Tuberculosis Congress in London. The Commission consists of Sir Michael Foster, Dr. Sims Woodhead, Dr. Sidney Martin, Mr. John McFadyean, and Dr. Robert Boyce. It is directed to report (1) whether the disease in animals and man is one and the same; (2) whether animals and man can be reciprocally infected with it; (3) under what conditions, if at all, the transmission of the disease from animals to man takes place, and what are the circumstances favourable or unfavourable to such transmission. We will refer at further length to this important matter at an early date.

THE NATIONAL FLAG.

The love of a soldier for his country's flag—who shall measure it? Hundreds of brave lives have been laid down to defend it, many doughty deeds have been performed to preserve it intact. Only recently we recorded the story of one of our soldiers in the South African war, who, when wounded, waved aloft his handkerchief, on which was printed the Union Jack, and called on his comrades to stick to it. When it seemed as if the Boers, who surrounded them, would seize his impromptu flag, he tied it round his head and dared them to take the bandage off a wounded man's head. Later, when in hospital in great pain from a wound in the leg received at the same time, he would pull out his flag and console himself with the reflection that the flag of England was worth more than a bad leg. Now comes a story of the love of Swiss soldiers for their flag. At the annual meeting of the Swiss Society of Officers lately held at the Castle of Chillon, the Canton Vaud received, to keep and to guard for a year, the Society's Federal banner, which was handed over by the Canton

St. Gall. Turning to the flag, Colonel Secretan, who received it, said:—

“Old flag, of an old land, you symbolise the stubborn struggle of six long centuries by a little people for their independence. Where'er you floated, whether in Spain or Italy, France or the Pays Bas, at Dreux or Rosbach, everywhere, Peoples and Kings, poets and generals, saluted you, a symbol of valour and fidelity. The flag of Switzerland is immortal. The tempest of the Revolution could not destroy it. When that storm had passed it still remained, respected by all, and so desired that Europe became the guardian of its incarnation. Since then it has seen a hundred years of peaceful progress. Search throughout history, no flag has been so privileged. It has been blessed, our old flag, as none other.”

Long may the flags endure which inspire such patriotism.

PROVISION FOR THE INSANE.

Dr. J. M. Rhodes, of Lancashire, who has been studying the treatment of lunatics and epileptics in Germany and America in connection with the increased provision required in Lancashire, is an advocate of what is known as the colony system. His suggestions on this plan have now been substantially adopted by the Lunacy Commissioners, and embodied in their recent report.

They recommend, says Dr. Rhodes, a more or less separate hospital for the treatment of acute cases; the establishment of cheaper and more simply constructed asylums in which could be maintained the rank and file of mental and physical decrepitude, interspersed with subjects of troublesome propensities; and, thirdly, simple cottage residences in which quite harmless and convalescent cases might live under conditions more closely approximating to those of their previous and normal lives. In Massachusetts a system of classification in these groups is also favoured, because it tends to better the treatment of the curable insane, to greater simplicity of organization and administration, to economical construction and equipment, and to the gradual withdrawal of chronic patients into buildings less massive and costly than we have at present. The great mistake English authorities have made has been their too slavish adherence to massive asylum buildings. The results obtained in the colony asylum in Germany and in America prove the advantage of the simpler buildings.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)