

The largest hospitals usually give their pupils training in contagious diseases, but the smaller ones seldom; we mean scarlet fever, diphtheria, erysipelas, measles, etc. Typhoid fever is received in all general hospitals.

Few hospitals give nervous or insane training. Comparatively few yet give a really thorough-going practical training in cooking and housewifery, though almost all make some effort in this direction, and so far we have but one preliminary course, where a six months' training is given in these two branches, and where the whole foundation of practical work is laid before the pupil is sent into the wards.

Examinations are held at the end of each year and are mostly written, conducted by the Medical and Surgical Staff.

#### POST-GRADUATE WORK.

There are several good post-graduate courses available in special hospitals, but no general hospital has yet planned out a systematic post-graduate course.

#### STATE EXAMINATIONS AND REGISTRATION.

As yet we have nothing of the kind; but the state societies will begin work in this direction within the next year or two. There are at present two or three quack schools in existence, two at least of which are managed by doctors, who, presumably, do not realise what they are doing; one is in Philadelphia, one in Chicago, the third and least pretentious in New York City. To attack these and bring about a complete general standard of training by dint of urging co-operation instead of the extreme individualism now practised by hospitals will be the work of the future for our organizations, and will fully occupy their time for the rest of the 20th century.

### Our Thanks to the Congress Committee.

The representative American Committee, who have given so much time and thought during the past year to the organization of the International Nurses' Congress, are cordially to be congratulated on the result of their hard work. The success of the Congress was, it is true, a foregone conclusion, for the Organizing Committee included Superintendents and Nurses, who have not only an American, but a world-wide reputation, and whose ability and fine professional work is known and recognised throughout the nursing profession. Nevertheless, our admiration is none the less due to them for the way in which they have carried through the latest work to which they have set their hand, and it is most heartily tendered. Time alone will show the full value of the Congress.

## The International Congress of Nurses.

### HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION IN ENGLISH COUNTY HOSPITALS.

By MISS MOLLETT.

Ladies,—I rise with some diffidence to speak after Miss Stewart's able paper,\* dealing as it does with all the chief points of interest in hospital administration, and my only excuse is, that I speak as a Matron of a very different, though very important, class of hospital—that is to say, large county hospitals unconnected with medical schools.

It will not, perhaps, be out of place if I begin with a few remarks regarding their importance from a statistical point of view in England; I am excluding the hospitals of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and all special hospitals.

London contains twelve general hospitals, with medical schools attached, containing an aggregate of 4,674 beds. The provinces (or counties) have twelve medical schools with an aggregate of 3,075 beds. Thus the total number of beds in general hospitals in England, where regular clinical instruction is given to students, is 7,749. But there is further a very large number of general hospitals varying much in size, which have no medical schools attached, whose total number of beds, 14,974, is nearly double the amount of those devoted to clinical instruction.

Fifty of these contain 100 beds and over; and have a total of 7,526 beds, or nearly as many as the London and Provincial Medical Schools combined.

Sixty-four have from fifty to 100 beds, with a total of 3,472, whilst there are no less than 203 hospitals containing less than fifty beds, of which sixty-six have less than ten beds, with a total of 3,976. The figures are taken from the medical directory.

All the above are voluntary hospitals, supported by subscription or endowment, none of them are aided by Government or are rate-supported. Very few of them receive a small proportion of paying patients. In fact they practically do not receive them. Except in certain primary matters it is not possible, in my opinion, to compare the management of a county hospital in detail with that of a hospital having a medical school attached. The essential virtues of order, discipline, obedience, and the subordination of the female staff in disciplinary matters to the female head are the same in both, but in detail they vary.

The highest authority in a county hospital, supported by voluntary contributions, is always the governors—the donors or subscribers in council assembled.

\* Hospital Administration. Vide *NURSING RECORD*, October 12th.

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