

of nurse-training compared with the system adopted in the large hospitals of England and Scotland.

Another point of vital importance raised by Dr. Thompson is the question of who teaches nursing? He says, "doctors are not sufficiently trained themselves as a rule to teach nurses the most essential portion of their duties. This falls on the Lady Superintendent. It is she who teaches the nurse."

We do not remember that the point has ever been acknowledged by a prominent medical man before, but it is of vital moment, and embodies the principle that the instruction of pupils in the practice and details of their profession can only be taught by those who have themselves passed through a nursing curriculum. The professions of medicine and nursing though closely associated are distinct, and this fact must never be lost sight of in the organization of educational courses for nurses. The instruction in the scientific bases of their work, such as anatomy, physiology, and hygiene, is undoubtedly given most thoroughly by the medical practitioner, and many have rendered invaluable service to nursing in this connection, but the practical duties of a nurse can be taught only by an experienced nurse.

THE TRIPLE QUALIFICATION.

Another equally important point raised on the Irish Local Government Order is the need for nurses to hold a triple qualification, following on the lines of medical education, in medical, surgical, and obstetric nursing. In Canada and the United States this triple qualification is the rule in all hospitals of the highest standing. The General Hospital, Toronto, has a well arranged Maternity block, where nurses can obtain training in this branch, while in the States the New York Hospital, the Presbyterian, Mount Sinai and St. Luke's in the same city, and the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, are affiliated to the Sloane Maternity Hospital, New York, where all their pupils take out a post graduate course. In this country it is the exception for nurse training-schools to afford their pupils training in maternity nursing, but there is no doubt that in the future this training must be provided for, or we must be prepared to recognize the specialist midwife, a course which does not commend itself to the fully-qualified medical practitioner or to trained nurses who hold a obstetric qualification.

Annotations.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL TACKLES SMALLPOX.

An interesting report of the smallpox outbreak in London has been prepared by the London County Council, which states that up to the end of the third week in October 622 cases had been notified in London since the beginning of the year, 574 having occurred during the last eleven weeks. The districts concerned are St. Pancras, which has supplied 143 cases, Holborn 63, Marylebone 56, Bermondsey 51. Numerous night inspections have been made by the Council's officials in the last fortnight of common lodging houses between Holborn and the Strand, where a number of cases have occurred, and where certain shelters for women have been specially involved. Some of the infection is traced to a woman who had the eruption of smallpox out upon her on October 13th, but who was selling walnuts at Covent Garden until the 15th. She was seen by the Poor Law doctor at Endell Street on the latter date, but escaped before the ambulance summoned to remove her arrived, and, although close watch was kept by the County Council officials, was not re-discovered until the 18th of the month. The Council also made arrangements with the keeper of the Parker Street lodging house to control the admissions for the time being, and a nurse has been engaged to attend there and take the temperatures of women who frequent it. It is proposed that if necessary a lodging house for men shall be brought under the County Council's control for similar purposes. It is a curious fact that the solicitor to the Council is of opinion that it has not the strict right to incur any expense on putting into force these common-sense precautions, and that it may have to apply to the Local Government Board for permission to incur such expenditure. It is interesting, in view of the present outbreak of smallpox, to revive the almost forgotten fact that before the introduction of vaccination it was the fashion to be inoculated with this disease. The practice was first introduced into this country by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, who, when her husband was English Ambassador at Constantinople, first induced British doctors to adopt this method of dealing with a universally dreaded disease. Writing from Constantinople she said:

"The smallpox, so general and fatal among us, is here entirely harmless by the invention of

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