

Nursing Education.

When the new Nurses' Home is opened at Guy's Hospital in the spring, various progressive movements in connection with the Nursing Department will come into force. It is of special interest that a six weeks' preliminary course of training for probationers has been arranged. We recently reported that the establishment of a preliminary course of training is under consideration at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and this instruction is already given at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, the London Hospital, and the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A. The value of such teaching has been undoubtedly proved, but, at the same time, the expense of maintaining a preliminary education department is considerable, the latest estimate of the cost to the London Hospital of its preliminary school being £1,500 per annum. It is evident, therefore, that only the largest hospitals can afford to maintain such schools, and the needs of smaller institutions remain untouched.

We learn with pleasure that the schools for nurses in Cuba have been placed on an educational basis, and are now affiliated with the University of Havana, the theoretical instruction being under the supervision of this authority, while the hospital wards are used for practical work. This arrangement was incorporated in the rules and regulations, framed by a committee, for the general use of State schools in Cuba, and having been approved by the Governor has now become law. This means that the nursing schools of State-supported hospitals in Cuba are removed from the direction of the Hospital Boards and placed under the State Educational Department.

We note in this connection that Miss M. Eugénie Hibbard, who is Superintendent of the School for Nurses at the Hospital, Matanzas, was a member of the above-mentioned committee, and we heartily congratulate her on a result which there is little doubt has been attained by her advice.

Legal Matters.

AN AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.

Mrs. Boulbee, Matron of the Richmond (Yorkshire) Nursing Association, was last week sentenced by the Richmond magistrates to three months' imprisonment for an aggravated assault upon a servant, a sentence which apparently was richly deserved. According to the evidence the defendant had been ill-treating the girl, whose case was taken up by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, for the last

six months. On one occasion she cut her with a knife while she was in bed, and on another beat her over the shoulders with a stair rod. After the last episode the girl ran away to the Rev. F. Hall for protection. The police were communicated with, and the girl taken to the workhouse, where she was medically examined, and had remained ever since. Evidence as to the ill-treatment of this girl, as well as of other maids, was given by Miss Mary Ann Jackson, a nurse, who was with the defendant for a short time, and her condition on the 6th inst. was described by two medical men who found her covered with bruises.

The name of this woman appears on no Nursing Directory, and we have been unable so far to ascertain her previous career, but presumably she is a trained nurse. This is but the last proof of the necessity for the legal registration of nurses, for there is at present no reason why when Mrs. Boulbee comes out of gaol she should not again nurse under an assumed name or even under her own. The fate of the sick in such hands is terrible to contemplate.

"PRINCESS SOLTYKOFF" COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Margaret Prebble, a trained nurse, who has been posing as Princess Soltykoff, has been sentenced by Mr. Justice Grantham, at Ipswich, to fifteen months' hard labour for theft from a fellow nurse and for obtaining money under false pretences.

NURSE OR COMPANION?

An action heard by Mr. Vice-Chancellor Hall in the Chancery Court of Lancashire was brought by Miss F. M. King, proprietress of the Englewood Nursing Institute, Southport, to restrain Miss S. M. Wilson, a nurse, from undertaking work in Southport, or within a radius of twenty five miles, for the residue of a term of two years from August, 1900, the defendant having given this undertaking in the terms of her agreement with Miss King. The question of the protection of business of a nursing institution in the provinces—for it does not affect London nurses in the same way—is a very difficult one. The conclusion we have formed is, nurses should be chary of signing prohibitive agreements, as they imply monopolies, which are an infringement of the liberty of the subject; but having signed them they should abide by them. In the case under consideration it was argued, that the defendant was acting not as nurse but as companion to the patient. There can be little doubt, however, that in the event of the patient needing a trained nurse the companion would act in this capacity, so the plea is somewhat weak.

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