

Each and all of what are known as the learned professions regulate through co-operation with the Board of Education of the State, however that may be organised, the lines upon which the educational standard of its own profession shall be fixed; for instance, the medical societies of the different States send to the educational board the names of medical men from whom a Board of Examiners shall be selected by the State authorities, and this medical board, so appointed, make up the examination papers for the members of their own profession. Nurses in their State organisation aspire to create a nursing standard in this same way; they claim the right to make the recommendations to the State Board of both the nurses and physicians from whom the examining board shall be selected; in no other way can the foundation be laid for a professional status. Nurses cannot realise, even with all the advance that has been made in training-school methods and upon educational lines, that the trained nurse of to-day has no legal standing before the law. She does not belong to a profession, she is not classed even with the graduates of a technical school, and the woman who has taken up nursing without any training, or who has been discharged from a training-school for serious cause, has the same right to call herself a trained nurse before the law as she who has given three years of hard work and hard study in any one of the training-schools of the highest grade, having graduated first in her class.

How long will nurses permit such conditions to exist when only a strong, concerted action is needed to improve the educational standard, to protect the public and nurses themselves against impostors, and to give trained nursing a place among the honourable professions?

When we read Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's letter, sent to the Superintendents' Convention in Detroit, we cannot but be impressed with the difficulties under which the English nurses are working. We, in our greater freedom, have no social influence against which we must struggle. We have only indifference and lack of unity among the nurses themselves standing between us and State registration.—*American Journal of Nursing.*

### Important Action of a Hospital Board.

We are informed that the Chicago Hahnemann Hospital trustees and faculty have dismissed from the staff those medical men who are members of the faculty or staff of one of the bogus schools for nurses which professes to teach nursing by mail. This is the first public expression of condemnation of this sort of humbug, and we congratulate the Hahnemann Hospital Board upon its action.

## Legal Matters.

### THE OPEN-AIR TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION.

A case of considerable interest and importance was heard by Mr. Justice Farwell, in which Earl De la Warr brought an action against Dr. Wills, of Bexhill, to restrain him from carrying on a private hospital for diseases of the chest at Marine Mansions in such a way as to be a nuisance to persons living in the adjoining houses, and in breach of the conditions of a lease granted by the plaintiff to the defendant.

The plaintiff pleaded that prior to the grant of the lease to Dr. Wills in 1900 the hospital was conducted in a way which gave no legitimate cause for complaint. Since then a new system of treating the patients had been adopted, the windows in the front of the house removed, and the balconies converted into residences for their reception both night and day, where they reclined on beds fully exposed to view. The front was brilliantly lighted with electric light, and people passing stopped to see what was going on. The plaintiff alleged that as a consequence his property had greatly depreciated in value, and the rents of adjoining houses were reduced as a result.

One witness called stated that he had seen patients lying on beds on the balconies from the street, and another who kept a boarding-house next door said her boarders had complained of what went on at the hospital, and were annoyed by the constant coughing of the patients. The tenant on the other side of the hospital said he had never suffered any annoyance.

Dr. Wills said he was a doctor of medicine. He had made a study of consumption, and was the writer of one of four essays which received honourable mention by the committee appointed by His Majesty to investigate the erection of sanatoria for the treatment of consumption. It was impossible to carry on a sanatorium in any different method to that at present in vogue. He was allowed to receive eight patients, but he never had had more than seven at a time. It was not a fact that the patients could be seen by passers-by. There were blinds to prevent that. He had performed operations on the balconies.

Other evidence having been called, his Lordship said that the plaintiff's evidence had failed to convince him that any nuisance had been caused by the defendant's hospital; nor did he think the defendant had been guilty of any breach of the conditions of the lease. He therefore dismissed the case and granted costs to the defendant.

[We congratulate Dr. Wills on having successfully defended his position. At the same time, we must say that, in our opinion, a detached house is necessary for an ideal home of this kind, in a secluded situation.]

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