

themselves, but to have the power of imparting knowledge to others, and to be conversant with the best methods of teaching, if the highest results are to be obtained.

Further, as these officers are brought into contact with a great diversity of persons and interests in the course of their professional work, it is important that those holding superior positions should have been brought into touch with wide interests and public questions.

The Matrons' Council is supported in this view by the analogous Society in the United States, the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses, and at the request of this Society, Teachers' College, which is in connection with Columbia University, New York, instituted in 1899 a class in Hospital Economics for students having the necessary qualifications for teachers in training-schools, concerning which, together with other supplementary matter, detailed information is enclosed. The Chairman of this Course in Hospital Economics is Miss Maud Banfield, a graduate of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

It appears to the Matrons' Council that Bedford College is peculiarly well qualified to organise such a Course in this country, and, indeed, that many of the subjects which it would be advisable for its students to take up are already taught in the College, such as bacteriology, chemistry, hygiene, physics, physiology, and professional training in teaching.

In support of the need for such a Course for future Superintendents of Training-Schools it is only necessary to point out that so far no inclusive Course has been established in this country which future Superintendents can pass through, and by means of which the professional standard for Superintendents can be defined and established, thus affording Committees of Training-Schools a guarantee that those nurses who have passed through the Course have received instruction in the special duties which as Superintendents of Training-Schools they will be called upon to discharge.

May I therefore ask the Council of Bedford College to take into consideration the establishment of such a Course, for the furtherance of the better education of nurses, and, in consequence, of the better nursing of the sick.

In conclusion, I desire to express the willingness of the Matrons' Council to afford any assistance in its power to the Council of Bedford College on any points of professional discipline and practical nursing work which may arise in connection with the organisation of the Course.—I am, Ladies and Gentlemen, Yours faithfully,

ISLA STEWART,

President of the Matrons' Council of
Great Britain and Ireland.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick warmly supported the proposition, and said that for years she had endeavoured to keep the nursing world in this country in touch with the educational progress of nursing in the colonies and America, through the medium of the NURSING RECORD. No nursing progress could be made without better educational facilities. In 1894 she brought the question of nursing education before the R.B.N.A., and urged it to perform its duty to nurses in this relation—unhappily,

without success. In 1899 she pointed out in the NURSING RECORD that if a post-graduate course of education for nurses could be established in this country, similar to that inaugurated in connection with Teachers' College in America, the efficiency of hospital Matrons would be materially increased, and the difficulty felt by hospital committees in selecting the most efficient applicants would be lessened. Miss Breay, their alert Hon. Secretary, first drew attention to the course given in hygiene and kindred subjects at Bedford College, and to its adaptability, with slight alterations, to the needs of the nursing profession. Thus, by the kind co-operation of Miss Hurlbatt, the Principal, and Dr. Legge, the Instructor in Hygiene, she had been able to publish a paper by Dr. Legge, which no doubt they had all read in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, in August of last year. More recently Miss Hurlbatt had kindly talked the matter over with Miss Stewart and herself, and had immediately, as expert educationalists do, grasped the importance of their suggestions. She therefore had great pleasure in endorsing the President's proposition that the letter before the meeting should be signed by her and sent to the Council of Bedford College.

Several other members having expressed their approval, it was unanimously agreed that the letter should be sent.

The meeting then terminated.

MARGARET BREAY, Hon. Sec. Matrons' Council.

A Post-Graduate Course for Certificated Nurses.

We learn that the communication from the Matrons' Council forwarded to the authorities of Bedford College for Women has received immediate and courteous consideration.

A letter has been sent by the Council of Bedford College to Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Matrons' Council, inviting two representatives of the Council to confer with the Board of Education of the College on the suggested post-graduate course for certificated nurses. The points suggested for consideration at the Conference are:—1. The nature of the Course required. 2. The extent to which teaching given in the College would already provide for part of the Course. 3. The length of the Course required. 4. What likelihood there is of such a Course being made use of by nurses. 5. What steps could be taken to secure the co-operation of other persons and institutions interested in the training of nurses for the purpose of framing and advertising the Course.

The question of the higher education of nurses is one in which our leading Matrons are beginning to take an increasing interest, and it is sincerely to be hoped they will be willing to afford the Council of Bedford College their invaluable co-operation in this important matter.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)