

London are building new homes for their nurses; and had it not been for that extraordinary unanimity of Press opinion, which exploded with quite spontaneous combustion, the financial support to time-honoured "Bart's" would have been forthcoming, and its urgently-needed Nurses' Home might also have been coming along. We hope, however, the building of a Nurses' Home at "Bart's" will not be long delayed.

The mere suggestion that a trained nurse should be adequately paid seems to lower the profession in the eyes of some of her colleagues, and she is accused of greed and other human vices. The professional nurse, like others, must live, and must earn a living wage; but she has one quality of service to sell—her best. The army takes a high place in the list of professions, and in its best qualities should be emulated by that of nursing.

Ruskin, the great sage, reaches the true reason when he says of the soldier:—"He holds his life at the service of the State. Our estimate of him is on this ultimate fact—of which we are well assured—that, put him in a fortress breach, with all the pleasure of the world behind him and only death and his duty in front of him, he will keep his face to the front." Here, then, we have the real essence that must ever distinguish the professions from the trades—service first, wage second. We like that attitude "face to the front."

A committee of governors and medical officers recently submitted their report to the managers of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, on the question of the difficulty in obtaining probationers. The difficulty, the report stated, was largely due to a want of improvement in the system of training, which was arranged many years ago. Owing to the recent progress in nursing, greater skill and knowledge were now expected from nurses, and in order to maintain the reputation for training nurses which the hospital had hitherto held, some reorganisation and improvement was necessary. The committee strongly recommended that a "developed system of instruction" be organised, as they were convinced that with the assistance of teachers in the University the staff could arrange for the teaching of probationers in an exceptionally complete and efficient manner. This could, however, in the opinion of the committee, be effected only if the system of nurses paying a premium for professional education and training, receiving board and lodging in return for the work performed, was maintained. The Rev. C. W. A. Brooke said that for the £30 received from the probationer nurses the best possible instruction ought to be given.

Training has always been paid for by probationers at Addenbrooke's, and it is not at all surprising that

the Governors have been compelled to realise that they must provide efficient and progressive instruction or the supply will run short. It is only by the non-paying system that the majority of hospitals get a supply of probationers at all. Few of these institutions have systematised the education of the nurses, so as to bring it up to date, and if fees were exacted they would be brought up with a round turn—the supply of candidates would not meet the demand.

It is a question now for the training-schools of board, lodging, and salary, and no standard of teaching upon the part of the hospital authorities, and a fair supply of ill-educated candidates; or a thoroughly-equipped nursing school, with systematic teaching, theoretical and practical, and partly supported by the fees of the probationers. We have no doubt that the authorities of Addenbrooke's Hospital have chosen wisely, and we feel confident that if they offer a thoroughly efficient course of teaching they will soon attract the best class of woman to their school.

A most satisfactory report was submitted from the Matron relative to the nursing staff to the Brentford Board of Guardians, and when one notes what care is taken in training the nurses it is not surprising to learn that they find promotion easy, and that the certificated nurses have gained many good posts during the year. To quote from the report:—

"Dr. Fooks and Dr. Silvester have regularly given courses of lectures on Physiology and Anatomy, as well as clinical instruction in the wards, and classes have been held by the Matron and Assistant Matron on Nursing and Bandaging.

"The annual examination was held by Dr. Fooks and Dr. Silvester, on June 10th and 11th.

"The final Examination for Nurses in their third year was held by Dr. Seymour Sharkey, of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, on June 9th and 25th. Five nurses presented themselves for examination, and all passed; Dr. Sharkey considering them 'all good.' He reports: 'I have this day examined five nurses at the Infirmary, and can congratulate those responsible for their teaching, on the very marked proficiency they all showed.'

"The names of the nurses who passed are:—Marie Robinson, Florence E. Lowe, Charlotte Mellor, Agnes E. Williams, and Gertrude L. Souter.

"Massage classes have been held regularly by Sister Brocks, and all the nurses who went up for the examination held by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, London, passed in the practical part; the result of the written part has not yet been announced."

The new hospital of St. Francis, which was opened by the Duchess of Portland on Wednesday, stands on the edge of Hampstead Heath—an ideal spot for a babies' home. Till recently it was a private

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