

rooms and dining-rooms, with the necessary domestic service, must be provided on the spot for the nursing staff—in short, that the arrangement will mean not only complete disorganisation but double expense.

Lastly, the fact must be taken into consideration that it is practically certain other nursing schools which provide conveniently arranged Homes in close proximity to the hospital will have preference from candidates for posts as probationers, and a hospital suffering from the disadvantage of a Home at a distance will not get the pick of the basket.

On all these grounds, and as a former Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, we strongly protest against this most disastrous recommendation.

Annotations.

THE GREATEST GOOD OF THE GREATEST NUMBER.

After having been present on Friday in last week at the Special General Meeting convened by the Royal British Nurses' Association to consider the Synopsis of a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which it is proposed to introduce into the House of Commons next Session, we cannot allow the occasion to pass without expressing our great gratification at the alteration of tone adopted from the platform towards the nurse-members.

Mr. Pickering Pick discharged the duties of the chair with dignity, tact, and kindly consideration, in striking contrast to the attitude assumed for years by its usual occupant. Again, the tone which characterised the explanations made by the Medical Honorary Secretary, Dr. Comyns Berkeley, to the members was all that could be desired, and the nurses present, who almost entirely composed the meeting, were encouraged to discuss the clauses of the Bill. It is regrettable they did not avail themselves more freely of the opportunity thus afforded.

The Council of the Association had met on the previous Wednesday, and the Synopsis of the Bill as proposed by it to the meeting on Friday differed in some important particulars from that recently published in the official organ of the Association, a fact which proves the value of free ventilation and discussion of a subject. The Council has shown common sense in suggesting the formation of a Central Board designed to give direct representation to the Matrons and nurses them-

selves, and, although, in our opinion, there are still several serious drawbacks to the Bill, we hope that, after further consideration, the members will modify, or altogether omit, certain undesirable features in its constitution before it is presented to Parliament.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick expressed the feeling of all those who founded the Association fifteen years ago for the definite purpose of obtaining State Registration, as a means of effecting organisation and reform in the nursing ranks, when, at the end of the meeting, he congratulated the Association on having once more decided to support the foundation principle for which the British Nurses' Association was founded in 1887.

It is to be hoped that, from the provisions of the two Registration Bills now being promoted, each of which has its distinctive good points, an Act of Parliament providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses will be evolved, which will give general satisfaction to the majority of trained nurses.

The policy of the two Societies of Nurses, which are both working towards the same end, should be to provide for the greatest good of the greatest number.

THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE.

A knowledge of the history of other professions is of great value to those who, like nurses, are only on the threshold of organisation. It is of interest, therefore, to learn that a Society for the Study of the History of Medicine has recently been founded in Holland, and that a chair of the history of medicine has been established in the University of Maryland. It is said to be the first foundation of the kind in the United States.

Why not a Society for the Study of the History of Nursing? It should prove interesting and instructive to all those who are concerned in the rise and development of nursing as a profession.

There is scope for an interesting volume in the story of Kaiserswerth, in the history of the heroic women who entered our hospitals in the seventies and in whose train followed the sweetness and light, the order and method, the good care of the sick which prevail to-day, and later in that of the lives of women in various countries of the world who are working for the introduction of the same order and method into the ranks of nurses outside the hospitals, or whose efforts in this direction have already been crowned with success.

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