

registered nurses possess such practical and technical knowledge as will enable them to carry out skilfully and intelligently all orders given them. It would, moreover, enable the smaller hospitals to prepare the nurses trained by them to equal the knowledge gained by those trained in the larger schools, and thus raise the nursing standard generally.

The reasons urged against Registration are, briefly:—

(1) That a central body is unnecessary, as the large hospital training-schools are sufficient in themselves to maintain the required standard. That the formation of a Register would prove a source of danger rather than protection to the public, as it would be difficult, if not impossible, to exercise the proposed disciplinary powers of the Central Board, and undesirable persons once registered would be accepted without question. That an examination for admittance on the Register would tend to eliminate many desirable persons, and give the preference to clever but otherwise undesirable persons—as examinations are no test of moral attributes.

(2) Both Bills present one difficulty to many who desire registration, and also provide an objection to those who oppose them. There is insufficient (or non-) representation of lay members.

“He who pays the piper calls the tune.” Therefore, the general public, who pay and support the trained nurse, may reasonably, and with advantage, claim at least equal representation on the Central Board.

Another difficulty is the tendency to stereotype the present accepted standard of training. All conditions and regulations should be so framed that all future developments of medical science may find the nursing profession free to follow its latest demands on skill and knowledge.

I would urge all nurses, but especially that great body of private nurses which is directly in touch with the general public, to think over this great movement, not only as it will affect them, but the nursing world at large. The time has come when women who wish to enter the profession must have some guarantee that the certificate for which they give time and strength to earn shall have a market value in the outside world.

It is time those who for lack of room or opportunity are not trained in a large training-school may yet prove they possess the skill and knowledge which render them competent to enter the ranks fully equipped.

On the other hand, it is equally true neither training, examination, nor registration will turn an undesirable into a desirable nurse.

The brilliant scientific woman, the surgeon's joy, the physician's right hand, may lack every instinct of the real nurse. Still, that is no reason to admit the sympathetic womanly nurse into the forefront of the profession if she fails to obtain that practical and technical knowledge of her responsible duties which alone enables her to meet all demands.

The questions must be answered by each nurse for herself.

Shall we endeavour to ensure thorough practical knowledge of our work, and submit it to the test of a common examination?

Will the existence of a central body be for the protection of the public and trained nurses alike?

On our answers State Registration stands or falls.  
AMY HUGHES.

#### A QUESTION OF TRAINING.

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent “Cottage Nurse” asked recently what she is to do to gain admission to a general training-school so as to thoroughly qualify herself for the work she has chosen—a determination which will have the sympathy of many. The only possible advice to her is, I think, to go on applying until she finds an institution which will accept her. Some Matrons make a rule that they will take no candidates who have had any previous training; others, on the contrary, rather prefer to take as pupils those who have some knowledge of nursing, assuming that, so far as it goes, that knowledge is sound. Some of the good provincial hospitals, as well as some of the large Poor Law infirmaries, would, I believe, accept your correspondent as a candidate. Provided, of course, that she is in every way eligible for the position she seeks, perseverance would, I believe, be crowned with success.—I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,

WELL-WISHER.

#### Comments and Replies.

*Provincial Matron.*—A disinfectant which is now widely used is Izal, which has the advantage of being non-poisonous and non-corrosive. It is supplied by Newton, Chambers and Co., Ltd., Thorncliffe, near Sheffield.

*Provincial Matron.*—The question of State Registration is essentially one upon which it behoves every nurse to have a well-considered opinion. One cannot belong to a community without having public duties, and a nurse's duty in relation to Registration involves both that to her own colleagues and to the public at large. At present the public is at the mercy of every charlatan who chooses to don a nursing uniform, for it has no sufficient method of discrimination between the competent and incompetent.

*Nurse B.*—It is very difficult to keep rubber goods in good condition in a tropical climate. The first essential is to obtain them from a reliable firm, as poor qualities of rubber inevitably “perish.” Hot-water bottles keep best when air or a small amount of water is left in them when not in use, as this prevents the two sides from becoming adherent. It is important that syringes should be kept hanging quite straight. Some authorities recommend that rubber tourniquets should be kept in water. With the greatest care they are apt to become unreliable.

#### Notices.

##### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Will the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses whose current subscriptions have not yet been paid, kindly forward them to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible, as the financial year closes on April 30th.

##### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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